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"It is no exaggeration to say that information technology has spread the communication facility to all and thereby shrunk the world into a global village. My Government has been implementing many schemes to take the benefits of such a technology to all".

Selvi J Jayalalithaa
-Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** flagged off at the Secretariat through video conferencing on 21.09.2016, the passenger services of Chennai Metro Rail between Chennai Airport and Little Mount Stations and also inaugurated the Airport, Meenambakkam, Nanganallur Road, Guindy, Little Mount and St. Thomas Mount Metro Rail stations.

'Chennai Metro rides to fulfil vision of a truly modern city'

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** during the Inauguration of the Passenger Service of Chennai Metro Rail Limited from Airport to Little Mount and declaring open the Metro Rail Stations at Airport, Meenambakkam, Nanganallur Road, Guindy, Little Mount and St.Thomas Mount through Video Conference on 21.09.2016

Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development, Urban Poverty & Alleviation and Housing, and Information and Broadcasting, Shri Venkaiah Naidu garu,

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Thiru. Pon Radhakrishnan Avargale,

Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,

Adviser to Government of Tamil Nadu,

Mr.Seiji Baba, Consul-General of Japan, Chennai,

Mr.Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, Japan International Co-operation Agency,

Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida, Deputy Chief Representative, Japan International Co-operation Agency,

Principal Secretary to Government, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Department,

Managing Director, Chennai Metro rail Limited,

It gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate the passenger services, on the second elevated corridor of the Chennai Metro rail Project

covering a distance of 8.6 kilometres from the Airport to Little Mount Station. The metro rail stations at Airport, Meenambakkam, Nanganallur Road, Guindy and Little Mount which fall on this stretch are also being inaugurated today. In addition, the St. Thomas Mount Metro Station which is on Corridor II of the Chennai Metro Rail is also being inaugurated. Operations on Corridor I, on the lower level of the Alandur Metro Station are also commencing from today.

I had already inaugurated the 10.15 kilometre elevated section from Koyambedu to Alandur on June 29th, 2015. I understand that the passenger operations on the 1.28 kilometre stretch from Alandur to St. Thomas Mount will also be commenced shortly after obtaining clearance from the Commissioner for Metro Rail Safety. With that the entire 20 kilometre elevated section of the Chennai Metro Rail Project, would become operational. Trains will run from Koyambedu to St. Thomas Mount, connecting with suburban train services at St. Thomas Mount and with Mofussil and other bus services at Koyambedu. Very soon, direct trains will be run on the loop line available at Alandur so that direct train connections can be provided from Koyambedu to the Airport, without having to change at Alandur.

All these are steps towards realizing my vision of making Chennai a truly modern city of the 21st century with all amenities for its residents. The share of public transport in Chennai will be substantially enhanced with seamless integration of buses, suburban train services, air services, metro rail and eventually the monorail.

It is a matter of immense satisfaction to me that the preparation of the detailed feasibility study for the Chennai Metro Rail Project

commenced when I was holding the office of Chief Minister in 2003 and almost the entire physical work on the Metro rail corridors in Chennai have been carried out since the time I assumed office in May, 2011.

I acknowledge the support of the Government of India to the implementation of the Metro Rail project and I am very happy that the Union Minister for Urban Development, Shri Venkaiah Naidu garu has joined us on this occasion. I have no doubt that he would continue to steadfastly support Tamil Nadu's development. The Union Minister of State Thiru. Pon Radhakrishnan has consistently endeavoured to bring into Tamil Nadu large development projects.

Japan is India's and Tamil Nadu's largest development partner today.

I am happy that the Consul General of Japan in Chennai, the Chief Representative and Deputy Chief Representative of JICA in India are all present here for this event. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu I thank the Japanese Government and the people of Japan for their support to development programmes in Tamil Nadu. I am confident that the Japan International Co-operation Agency will continue its support for the Chennai Metro Rail Project, both for the Phase I Extension and for the Phase II. We also request support for other important projects, in the pipeline like the 400 Million Litres per Day Desalination Project near Chennai, the Chennai Peripheral Ringroad Project, and the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme Phase II.

I congratulate Chennai Metro Rail and all the persons associated with the Project who have brought a modern mass transit system to the City of Chennai. Like the residents of the city, I look forward to the commencement of operations on the underground section of the Metro Rail which I am confident will be before the end of 2016.

Nandri !

Vanakkam !

New taluk office buildings to take Government to the people

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 16.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

The Revenue Department is the Mother of all Departments; the backbone of the administration; and a great contributor for the growth and improvement of the society. To further improve the work ambience of this Department and to provide facilities for the general public, 377 buildings were constructed for the Department in the last 5 years at a cost of Rs.356 crore. They are 7 District Collectorate Offices, 6 Divisional Revenue Offices, 64 Taluk Offices and 54 camp offices for Revenue Inspectors, 231 office buildings for Village Administrative Officers and 15 other buildings.

In continuation of this, I have issued orders for the construction of new buildings for 16 Taluk offices at a cost of Rs.48.39 crore in the current year. The Taluk offices to benefit are those at Komarapalayam (Namakkal District), Kadayampatti (Salem), Keezhpennaathur (Tiruvannamalai), Maanoor and Cheranmadevi (Tirunelveli), Shoolagiri (Krishnagiri), Nemili and Pernambut (Vellore), Kodumudi, Modakurichi and Thalavadi (Erode), Pallavaram (Kancheepuram), Kandachipuram and Melmalayanoor (Villupuram) and Kariamangalam and Nallampalli (Dharmapuri).

In accordance with my Government's policy that Government follows in the footsteps of the People, 9 new Revenue Divisions and 65 new Taluks have been created in the last 5 years for taking the services of the Revenue Department speedily to people. In continuation of this, I have ordered the creation of 5 new Taluks respectively at Srimushnam by dividing the Kattumannarkoil Taluk in Cuddalore District, at Aandimadam by dividing the Udayarpalayam Taluk in Ariyalur District, at Koothanallur by dividing Needamangalam Taluk in Tiruvarur District, at Kayatharu by re-organising the Taluks of Kovilpatti and Ottapidaram in Thoothukudi District and at Singampunari by dividing the Tirupathur Taluk in Sivagangai District. This will cost the Government Rs.4 crore.

These schemes announced by me will help people get the services of the Revenue Department speedily and the Department to extend its services effectively, speedily and simply. ■

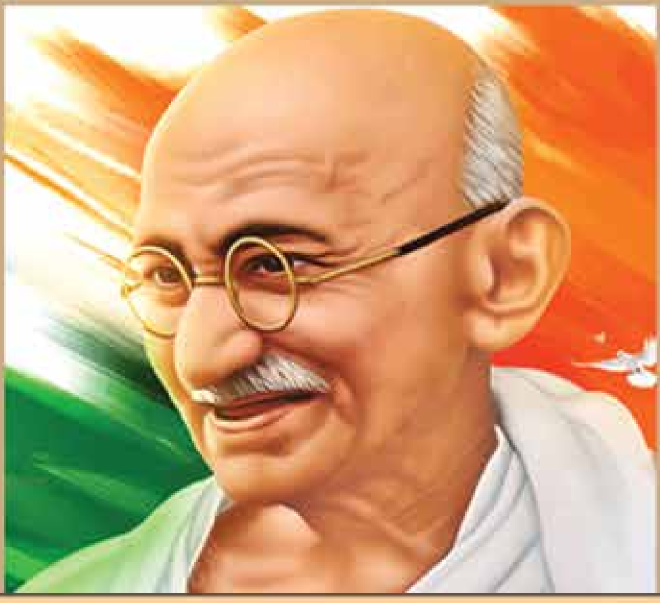
Chief Minister flags off 200 New Buses

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa flagged off at the Secretariat on 21.09.2016, 200 new buses of Government Transport Corporations and handed over 25 jeeps for the use of the Transport Department. The buses cost Rs.45,41,92,000/- and the jeeps Rs.1,46,83,000/-.

Of the 200 buses, the Chennai Metropolitan Transport Corporation will operate 118 buses including 3 specials for women, the Villupuram Government Transport Corporation 11, Salem Government Transport Corporation 4, Coimbatore Government Transport Corporation 16, Kumbakonam Government Transport Corporation 2, Madurai Government Transport Corporation 12 and Tirunelveli Government Transport Corporation 37 buses. The operation of 3 special buses for women in Chennai is a sequel to the request made at the special grievances redressal camp held at the Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar Assembly Constituency.

Of the 25 jeeps handed over, 15 (total cost Rs.90 lakh) are for the use of the Special Executive Divisions of the Regional Transport offices at Poonamallee, Chengalpattu, Tindivanam, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Namakkal (North), Pollachi, Ooty, Karur, Pudukkottai, Madurai (North), Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Nagercoil. The remaining 10 jeeps (Rs.56.83 lakh) are for the use of the Chennai (North-East) Regional Transport office and the Area offices at Gummudipoondi, Panruti, Ginjee, Ambur, Iluppur, Thiruthuraipoondi, Lalgudi, Aravakurichi and Watrap.

Mahatma remembered in manifold ways



The Tamil Nadu Government celebrated the 148th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Chennai on 02.10.2016. Gandhiji's statue on the Marina and his portrait placed below were tastefully decorated with flowers.

Around 10 a.m., His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu (i/c), Thiru.Ch.Vidyasagar Rao and Hon'ble Ministers offered floral tributes to the portrait.

Earlier, between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. spinning was performed and prayers were offered near Gandhiji's Statue.

At 8.15 a.m. a bicycle rally stressing untouchability eradication, national integration, world peace and communal harmony, took off from Gandhiji's statue point on the Marina and reached Gandhi Mandapam at Guindy. The rally made up of thousands of school children in the city was flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju.

Spinning was performed at Guindy Gandhi Mandapam also between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

A 3-day photo exhibition on the life of Gandhiji was got up at the Gandhi Mandapam by the Department of Information and Public Relations.

The 148th birth anniversary celebrations, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, commenced at Gandhi Mandapam on 02.10.2016 in the evening around 5 p.m.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu (in charge), Thiru.Ch.Vidyasagar Rao delivered the Presidential Address and distributed prizes to winners in the competitions held earlier for school and college students. Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Sports and Youth Welfare Thiru. K. Pandiarajan, and Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju spoke. Thiru. R. Venkatesan I.A.S., Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, earlier welcomed the gathering. Thiru.J.Kumaragurubaran I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations Department proposed a vote of thanks. Cultural events stressing untouchability eradication, national integration, world peace and communal harmony were performed by students. A large number of people turned up at the celebrations and paid their respects to the Father of Nation.

A film on Gandhiji was screened through LED Vans in the evening on all three days of the celebrations from 02.10.2016 to 04.10.2016. ■

Chief Minister distributes eight gram gold coins under marriage scheme

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa distributed at the Secretariat on 21.09.2016, marriage assistance to 5 beneficiaries from Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar Assembly Constituency and Kancheepuram District as a token of the marriage assistance being given to 12,500 beneficiaries for the year 2016-2017. This is the first batch to receive the increased quantum of 8 grams gold for making Thirumangalyam after it was announced. Earlier 4 gms gold was being given along with financial assistance.

To help women of poor parents, daughters of widows, destitute women, couples of inter-caste marriage and widows who re-marry, in accordance with the electoral promise made during the 2011 election, a marriage assistance of Rs.50,000/- and 4 gms of gold for making 'Thirumangalyam' are at present given through Social Welfare Department to women who are either graduates or diploma holders.

To educated poor women, an assistance of Rs.25,000/- and 4 gms gold are given. By way of implementing the electoral promise given during the 2016 election, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders on 23.05.2016 to increase the gold given under all marriage assistance schemes from 4 gms to 8 gms along with the usual financial assistance.

The recipients of the assistance conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Under the scheme for distribution of gold coins for 'Thirumangalyam', Rs.204 crore has been allotted for the financial year 2016-2017. The 12,500 beneficiaries who have applied after 23.05.2016 are given 8 gms of gold. The 1,40,000 earlier applicants will be given 4 gms of gold.

648 MW solar power station opened at Kamudhi

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open at the Secretariat on 21.09.2016, the 648 MW solar power station, put up by the Adhani Green Energy (Tamil Nadu) Ltd., on an investment of Rs. 4,536 crore at Kamudhi in Ramanathapuram District.

The station has 5 units – two 216 MW and three 72 MW. It has been connected to the Kamudhi 400 KV sub - station erected by the Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation (TANTRANSCO).

Amma measures to put IT power into the hands of the people

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 23.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

It is no exaggeration to say that Information Technology has spread the communication facility to all and thereby shrunk the world into a global village. My Government has been implementing many schemes to take the benefits of such a technology to all.

I have ordered the implementation of the following new schemes related to the Department of Information Technology:

1. To improve entrepreneurial talent, an Entrepreneur Centre has been set up on an area of 6,860 sq. ft. with a seating capacity for 90 on the first floor of Tidel Park,Chennai. I declared it open on 01.03.2016. As a follow-up, I ordered the establishment of entrepreneur centres in the Information Technology Parks in the second tier cities of the State. Accordingly, an entrepreneur centre will be set up this year in a rented building at the Tidel Park in Coimbatore on an investment of Rs. 2 crore. The Centre will have a seating capacity for 50 persons. NASSCOM company will be an intel shareholder to this Centre.

2. In our election manifesto, we had promised to provide Wi-Fi facility at no cost in public places like major bus stands, huge commercial complexes and parks in the State. By way of implementing this promise, I have ordered the setting up of 'Amma Wi-Fi Zone at 50 places like major bus stands and parks in the first phase. In these places free Wi-Fi and Internet facilities will be made available. Another promise made was that free internet facility would be made available for students in Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges. Accordingly, in the first phase, this facility will be provided in 50 schools. These facilities will be installed at a cost of Rs.10 crore. I have also sanctioned Rs.1.50 crore per annum as a recurring expenditure for the continued maintenance of this service in a proper way.

3. The Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) set up an ELCOSEZ (Special Economic Zone) at Sholinganallur, Chennai in 2004-2005. The ELCOSEZ has now created direct employment opportunities to 45,000 youth and indirect employment opportunities to 90,000 persons. The value of the ELCOSEZ's IT and IT-related product exports is Rs.16,536 crore. This constitutes 25 per cent of the exports of all special economic

zones in the State. To facilitate small and micro industrial entrepreneurs to start IT and IT related trade in Chennai, I have ordered the construction of an IT building on 2 lakh sq.ft. at ELCOSEZ, in Sholinganallur, Chennai at a cost of Rs.80 crore.

4. A State Residents Data Centre is to be set up by integrating the Aadhar numbers with the details of persons obtained from the National Census Register including the biometric ones.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has recognized the Tamil Nadu e- Governance Agency, functioning under the Department of Information Technology, as the Registrar for undertaking Aadhar registrations.

I have directed the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency to set up 650 permanent registration centres for taking up Aadhar registrations and for maintaining the State Census Registers. This will help extend best services to the citizens and Government Departments. These centres will be maintained by the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation and ELCOT, functioning under the Department of Information Technology.

In the first phase, these permanent registration centres will undertake Aadhar registrations through the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation in Chennai Corporation and in all Taluk offices; in all District Collectorates, Municipality offices and Municipal Corporations other than Chennai, these centres will be set up in e -service centres run by ELCOT and they will take up the registrations. These centres will also take up the issue of the various kinds of Aadhar based cards. This scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.25 crore.

5. The Tamil Nadu Government services are made available to people online through the concerned Departments. At present, most people use smart phones. Hence, I have directed the implementation of a scheme to provide the Government services through mobile applications – Assured Multi-Modal Access to e-Services (Amma e- Services). In the first phase, 25 services will be offered through this scheme. This mobile application scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs. 1 crore.

6. The e-Governance Directorate, the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency, and the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation, functioning under the IT Department, are all located in rented buildings, the first two at Alwarpet and the third at Egmore and Nungambakkam, Chennai. I have directed the construction of an additional building at a cost of Rs.5 crore at the Tamil Virtual Academy campus in Kotturpuram for these institutions.

Through these measures, the benefits of Information Technology will easily reach the people.

More schemes to improve Government Hospitals, medical service

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** under Rule 110 in the Legislative Assembly on 01.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker,

To provide quality medical care to all, particularly to the poor and the marginalised, my Government has been implementing many new schemes. My Government has designed innumerable schemes and is implementing them. They include establishing new Public Health Centres, Government Hospitals with a bed strength of 30 in each Taluk, strengthening the infrastructure facilities in Government Medical College Hospitals, District, Taluk and peripheral hospitals, supply of modern medical equipments, the re-structured 'Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme', Mobile Hospital Scheme, Dr.Muthulakshmi Maternity Scheme to provide financial assistance to pregnant women, Women Health Programme, Amma Baby Kits, Amma Health Scheme, Amma Maternity Sanjeevi Kit, Amma Total Body Scan and Amma Women Special Total Body Scan scheme. I am extremely happy to make the following announcements in this House for the current year for enhanced medical care to people.

1. New buildings will be constructed at the Madurai, Kilpauk (Chennai) and Coimbatore Government Medical College Hospitals for general medicine and for additional operation theatres for vascular, cardio thoracic, plastic surgery and surgeries for kidney, ENT and for

paediatrics. Infrastructure facilities such as Hybrid Operation Theatre, IVR Rooms, post operative treatment ward, post operative monitoring ward, post operative intensive treatment ward, heart monitoring, imaging centre and auditorium will be created in these hospitals. These will cost the Government Rs.356.50 crore.

2. At the modern surgery centres at Madurai, Kilpauk (Chennai) and Coimbatore Government Medical College Hospitals, surgery lamps, C – ARM, X-Ray, Endoscopy instruments, MRI Scan, CT Scan, a training centre with simulator for the intensive care unit and an anaesthetic work place will be created at a cost of Rs.497.41crore.

3. For the X-Ray Division of the Imaging Department in the Government Medical College Hospitals at Salem, Vellore, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Thiruchirappalli and Thoothukudi, instruments like CT Scan, Mammography and medical equipment like operating microscope, ultra-sound, C-Arm and X-ray for operation theatres will be supplied at a cost of Rs. 75.10 crore. For the Imaging Department in the 7 District Headquarters Hospitals at Erode, Thiruppur, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Pudukottai, Krishnagiri and Periakulam, CT Scan, digital fluoroscopy, endoscopy and other equipment will be given. Haemodialysis units will be created. For the operation theatre C-Arm, X-ray and other equipment will be supplied at a cost of Rs.78.50 crore. In all, Rs.153.60 crore worth equipment and accessories will be supplied to the above mentioned 14 hospitals.

4.Structural facilities will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.80 crore in the in-patient, surgery, general medicine and surgery, emergency, caeserian sections and in the Departments of maternity, child care, ENT and Ophthalmology in the Government Hospitals at Avadi, Chennai District, Maniyanoor (Salem), Velampalayam (Tiruppur), and Kandigaiperi (Tirunelveli). Beds, operation tables, anaesthetic equipment, dentistry in out-patient Departments, cardiotocography, radiant warmer, integrated emergency maternity and neo-natal babies care centre, ventilators to care giving sections for ailing neo-natal babies, cots, digital x-ray instruments, medical equipment like radiation instrument for the Imaging Department will be supplied to these hospitals at a cost of Rs.51.43 crore. That is, these hospitals will be strengthened at a cost of Rs.131.43 crore.

5. District Headquarters Hospitals will be strengthened with the supply of modern medical

equipment for high class treatment in the different sections of treatment like obstetrics and gynaecology, accident wounds, non-infectious diseases, laboratories and surgeries. Rs.122.19 crore will be spent on this.

6. With a view to provide treatment on par with private hospitals to the poor who mostly depend on Government Hospitals, modern equipment costing Rs.968 crore were distributed to different hospitals in the last 5 years. For the angiogram test, cathlab facility is presently available only at 5 hospitals - the Tamil Nadu Government Multi purpose Super Speciality Hospital at Omandurar Government Estates, Chennai, General Hospital, Chennai, Mohan Kumaramangalam Government Medical College Hospital, Salem, Rajaji hospital, Madurai and Stanley Hospital, Chennai. Cathlab equipment, costing Rs.42.20 crore will be supplied to the Department of cardiology in six hospitals in the current year and they will be made Centres of Excellence in Cardiology. The hospitals to benefit are: the Government General Hospitals at Coimbatore, Vellore, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Chennai and Madurai Rajaji hospital.

7. Tamil Nadu has recorded an achievement in bringing down the infant mortality rate. Tamil Nadu occupies the second place among the big States wich have a low infant mortality. In 2010, the rate was 24 for every 1,000 live births; now it has come down to 20. To further reduce this, my Government is taking many measures. One of them is the distribution of new equipment. It will be done at a cost of Rs.7.33 crore for the Egmore Institute of Child Health, Chennai, the neo-natal babies intensive treatment centres functioning in the Medical College Hospitals at Chengalpat, Coimbatore and Vellore; and to the children intensive treatment sections in 22 District Headquarters Hospitals and 6 Government Hospitals at a cost of Rs.7.18 crore. A total of Rs.14.51 crore will be spent for these programmes.

8. CEmONC centres and neo-natal babies intensive care units play a big role in reducing the infant mortality rate. Modern equipment costing Rs. 8.95 crore will be distributed to the maternity intensive treatment sections in the existing 55 CEmONC centres and to 64 other neo-natal babies Intensive Care Units.

9. To provide safe and quality blood to the needy people in Tamil Nadu, 87 Government blood banks and 363 blood collection centres functioning in Government medical institutions. In the current year, additional equipment will be distributed to 40 blood banks – 20 in Medical College Hospitals and 20 in District Headquarters Hospitals – at a cost of Rs.2.75 crore.

10. Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in providing primary health services to rural population. This has been appreciated by many organisations including the World Bank. In the current year, integrated primary health care services will be launched as a pilot project in the Districts of Krishnagiri, Pudukottai and Perambalur.

11. Facility for 'dialysis' is available in Government Medical College Hospitals and in District headquarters hospitals. To strengthen this facility further, 2 dialysis equipment each will be distributed to 20 Medical College Hospitals and 31 Grade II hospitals at a cost of Rs.5.76 crore.

12. New buildings costing Rs.5.75 crore will be constructed for the 15 urban health centres in the Municipal Corporations of Madurai, Dindigul and Thanjavur and for 8 urban health centres in the Municipalities of Perambalur, Panruti, Kumbakonam, Pattukottai, Aruppukottai, Thiruvarur and Avadi. Also, 17 urban Primary Health Centres will be upgraded as urban community health centres at a cost of

Rs.2.55 crore in the 8 Municipal Corporations of Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Trichy, Erode, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur and Vellore.

13. The '108' emergency ambulance service of the Tamil Nadu Government saves precious human lives. By way of strengthening this service, 50 ambulance vehicles in operation under this scheme will be replaced this year with 50 new vehicles at a cost of Rs. 4 crore.

14. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of child deliveries in hospitals in the whole country. To and fro transport services between home and hospital are provided for pregnant women for child delivery. For the 20 District headquarters hospitals that record the highest number of child births 20 new vehicles will be purchased; 8 mobile medical teams will be formed for interior places and hilly regions in Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Krishnagiri, Palani, Tirunelveli and Ooty. These will be accomplished at a cost of Rs.2.41 crore.

15. My Government is greatly interested in the welfare of old people. Construction work is on at the complex of the Guindy King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research, Chennai for setting up a Rs.126.87 crore National Institute of Aging. In the current year, geriatric wards will be set up at the Government Hospitals at Villupuram, Vellore and Thanjavur at a cost of Rs.1.30 crore.

16. District psychiatry scheme is now implemented in 25 Districts. The scheme will be extended, this year, to the remaining 7 Districts of Ariyalur, Nilgiris, Thanjavur, Vellore, Krishnagiri, Salem and Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.6.60 crore.

17. Treatment centres to wean away alcoholic and narcotics addicts are presently functioning at 17 places. Such centres with a bed strength of 30 will be set up at the District headquarters hospitals at Kancheepuram, Tiruppur and Cuddalore at a cost of Rs.2.45 crore.

18.PET SCAN facility to detect cancer will be provided at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi-Purpose Super Speciality Hospital at Omandooraar Government Estates, Chennai at a cost of Rs.15 crore.

19.'Amma Health Scheme' is implemented in an excellent way at all the upgraded primary health centres at taluk level in Tamil Nadu. Likewise, 'Amma Total Body Scan' scheme and a separate 'Amma Women Special Total Body Scan' scheme for women are implemented at the Government Medical College Hospitals at Chennai and they are welcomed overwhelmingly by people This scheme will be extended in the current year to the Government Medical College Hospitals at Coimbatore, Tirunelveli and Madurai at a cost of Rs.30 crore.

20.My Government gives importance to the Indian systems of medicine. In the current year a hostel will be constructed at a cost of Rs.11.44 crore for the women students of the Government Yoga and Naturopathy College.

21.Steps will be taken to set up 22 Wellness Centres in the indigenous system of medicine and homeopathy sectors, to open 'Ayush' sections in 10 new Primary Health Centres and to extend financial assistance to the existing 475 'Ayush' medical centres –all at a cost of Rs.19.98 crore.

I wish to state that the schemes I have announced now will improve the Government Hospitals further and the poor and downtrodden will receive the best medical care in Government Hospitals. ■

More small buses for Chennai

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** under Rule 110 in the Legislative Assembly on 01.09.2016 (English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker,

Road transport plays an important role in linking people and in the growth of the economy. My Government has been implementing many measures to improve the Government Transport Corporations which are offering transport services to the people, especially the poor.

Every day, 1.79 crore people in Tamil Nadu are travelling through 20,839 Government buses. From 2012, my Government is offering diesel subsidy to Transport Corporations to avert passenger fare hike on account of the increase in diesel price. In the last 4 years, such a subsidy amounted to Rs.1,556.72 crore.

I am very happy to make new announcements regarding the Transport Department in this House.

1. At present, the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) is operating 200 small buses in Chennai city. These buses link transport terminuses with areas that don't have transport facility. This year the MTC will operate 100 more small buses in Chennai city.

2. In the 8 Transport Corporations, 1,600 posts at the rate of 200 in each, will be filled up on compassionate grounds to heirs of Transport Corporation employees who died while in service. The appointment will be on the basis of seniority of registration.

Chief Minister assures of full support to Colachel Port Project

Meeting of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** with Thiru. Pon. Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping on 16.09.2016.

The Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Thiru. Pon. Radhakrishnan called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa in the Secretariat, Chennai on 16.09.2016. The Union Minister of State requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the State Government's support for the commencement of survey for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the development of a Major Port at Enayam (Colachel). The Union Minister of State indicated that the construction of the Port is at a place nearly 1 km away from Enayam and Enayam itself will not be affected by this construction. The Port will be built by reclaiming land from the sea and no existing habitation will be affected.

Hon'ble Chief Minister indicated that right from her first tenure as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu she had been keen on implementing the Colachel Port Project. The lack of support from successive Central Governments had meant that the project could not be implemented. The Hon'ble Chief Minister assured the Union Minister of State that the Government of Tamil Nadu is as keen on implementing the project as the Government of India and would provide all necessary support.

The Union Minister of State also sought the support of the Hon'ble Chief Minister for providing land to establish a Rubber Research Center in Kanniyakumari District. Hon'ble Chief Minister assured that the proposal would be expedited.

The Union Minister of State requested that the East Coast Road, south of Puducherry, may be handed over to the National Highways Authority of India for upgradation as a National Highway. Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that for stretches of roads already taken over as National Highways adequate maintenance funding from National Highways Authority of India should be ensured. Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that the Government of Tamil Nadu is already taking up the upgradation and improvement work in the Thoothukudi - Tiruchendur- Kanniyakumari stretch of the East Coast Road. Hon'ble Chief Minister further sought an assurance from the Union Minister of State that in case the East Coast Road, south of Puducherry is taken over as a National Highways, adequate priority and funding should be accorded to ensure that the road is well maintained.

The Union Minister of State also sought the Hon'ble Chief Minister's continued support for all works relating to National Highways in the State of Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Chief Minister assured that all necessary support would continue to be provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. P. Rama Mohana Rao I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan I.A.S., (Retd.) Adviser to Government, Thiru. Rajeev Ranjan I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Highways and Minor Ports Department, Thiru. K. Shanmugam, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Thiru. S. Krishnan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department and other officials were present.

Chief Minister gives Poocharams a go ahead with 50 vehicles

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa handed over at the Secretariat on 21.09.2016, vehicle keys to 5 members of the 50 Tea Leaf Common Livelihood Groups in Nilgiris District as a token for the distribution of 50 leaf transporting vehicles purchased at a cost of Rs. 3.48 crore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also handed over cheques for Rs.1.10 crore as loan for setting up an inputs storing - cum - green leaf procurement centre.

The common livelihood groups were formed under the State Rural Livelihood Movement through the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation.

Common Livelihood Group, named 'Poocharam' is formed by bringing together at the village level, persons engaged in the same type of small occupations. The aim of these groups is to extend mutual help and get additional income in their occupations by utilizing the common infrastructure facilities of the groups and the marketing and technological training offered there.

In 2015-2016 financial year, 50 new common livelihood groups and 3 other livelihood groups were formed in Nilgiris District. These industrial groups are registered under the Tamil Nadu Registration of Societies Act so that they can register with the Tea Board of India and get revolving fund and other benefits. Members of these groups are trained in the working of the groups and maintenance of registers. They are also given technological training. As Tamil Nadu Government's Infrastructure Fund, these groups have received Rs.53 lakh at the rate of Rs. 1 lakh each.

The Bank Of India has lent the amount for the purchase of the vehicles and for the setting up of the procurement centre.

Chief Minister announces PSU employees bonus

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 28.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

The labour put in by workers is an important factor in a country's economic growth. Their economic security and development encourages economic growth. The labour component plays a major role in increasing production and thereby in expediting economic growth. Keeping in mind that their work should be duly recognized, I have ordered the distribution of bonus and ex-gratia for 2015-2016 to workers and employees in the different public sector undertakings in a way as to give them joy and enthusiasm.

The Central Government has increased the income ceiling for eligibility to receive bonus to Rs.21,000/- as per the revised Bonus Act 2015. As in the past, I have ordered the disbursement of bonus to all 'C' and 'D' class workers for 2015-2016 also by relaxing the income ceiling of Rs.21,000/-. In the earlier years, the ceiling of Rs.10,000/- was relaxed. The revised Bonus Act has increased the monthly salary ceiling for calculation of bonus, from Rs.3,500/- to Rs.7,000/-. On that basis, I have ordered the disbursement of bonus and ex-gratia. Accordingly,

1. Workers and employees in public sector undertakings (PSUs) which have earned profit, will be given, taking into account the Undertakings' allocable surplus, 8.33 bonus and 11.67 ex-gratia – totally upto 20 per cent bonus and ex-gratia.
2. Those in loss sustained PSUs will be given the minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent and 1.67 per cent ex-gratia – totally 10 per cent bonus and ex-gratia.

3. Eligible workers in the PSUs of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Government Transport Corporations and Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation will be given 8.33 per cent bonus and 11.67 per ex-gratia - totally 20 per cent bonus and ex-gratia.

4. Workers in Co-operative Societies that have earned profit will be given up to 20 per cent bonus and ex-gratia according to the Societies' allocable surplus. In the rest of the Societies, all eligible employees will get 8.33 percent minimum bonus and 1.67 per cent ex-gratia.

5. 'C' and 'D' class employees in Tamil Nadu Housing Board and Chennai Water Supply and Sewerage Board will be given 8.33 per cent bonus and 1.67 per cent ex-gratia – totally 10 per cent bonus and ex-gratia.

6. 'C' and 'D' class employees in Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board will be given 8.33 per cent bonus.

7. Eligible workers in Government Rubber Corporation, Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation, Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation, co-operative and public sector sugar mills and Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation will be given a maximum of 8.33 per cent bonus and 11.67 per cent ex-gratia according to these institutions' profit and loss and taking into account their allocable surplus or 8.33 per cent bonus and 1.67 per cent ex-gratia.

8. 'C' and 'D' class workers in Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation will be given 8.33 per cent bonus and 11.67 per cent ex-gratia – totally 20 per cent bonus and ex-gratia.

9. 'C' and 'D' class workers in Co-operative Housing Societies that have earned profit with allocable surplus will be given 8.33 per cent bonus and 11.67 per cent ex-gratia- totally 20 per cent bonus and ex-gratia; those in Societies that have not earned profit with allocable surplus will be given 8.33 per cent bonus and 1.67 per cent ex-gratia – totally 10 per cent bonus and ex-gratia.

10. An ex-gratia of Rs.4,000/- will be given to contract labourers working in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Rs.3,000/- to temporary staff working in Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, Rs. 3,000/- to workers in Lead Co-operative Societies and in District Co-operative Societies,not covered by the Bonus Act and Rs.2,400/- to those in Primary Co-operative Societies.

Eligible permanent employees, through this, will get a minimum of Rs.8,400/- and a maximum of Rs.16,800/-. Three lakh sixty seven thousand eight hundred and eighty seven workers in Tamil Nadu Government Public Sector Units will totally get a bonus of Rs.476.71 crore.

This measure of the Government will enable the workers in PSUs celebrate Deepavali with joy and festivity.

Chief Minister wishes Prime Minister a long life

Greetings letter dated 16.09.2016 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the occasion of his birthday.

"On the joyous occasion of your birthday, I take great pleasure in conveying my warm wishes to you for a wonderful year ahead.

I pray that the Almighty may grant you many more years of good health and strength to serve our Nation and the people".

148th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

In connection with the 148th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu (in charge) **Thiru. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao**, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government, Adviser to Tamil Nadu Government and other high officials offered on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government, floral tributes to a portrait of Gandhiji placed near his statue on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 02.10.2016.

Chief Minister presents medical books through Amma Charitable Trust

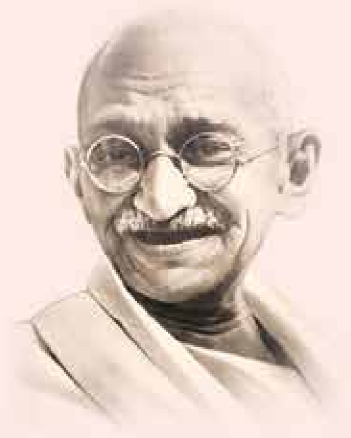
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented at the Secretariat on 21.09.2016, 10 sets of medical text books for M.B.B.S. study, to the Principal Secretary of the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare Dr. J. Radhakrishnan I.A.S. Totally costing Rs.1.50 lakh, the books are for the use of medical college and hospital libraries.

The book donations were made by the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Best Charitable Trust (5 sets of books costing Rs.75,000/-) and by Namadhu M.G.R. Best Charitable Trust (5 sets costing Rs.75,000/-).

With the visionary outlook that finance should not be a constraint for any student in pursuing education and with motherly love, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been distributing financial assistance to poor students through the M.G.R Trust.

The 10 sets of books cover the entire needs of students for the study of the four-year M.B.B.S. course.

The beneficiaries of the donation are the Tiruvarur Medical College Hospital, Tiruvannamalai Government Medical College and Hospital, Sivagangai Government Medical College and Hospital, Villupuram Government Medical College and Hospital, Coimbatore Government Medical College and ESI Hospital and the Tamil Nadu Government Multi-Super Speciality Hospital, Chennai.



The Mahatma possessed little, was possessed by compassion

Gandhi's compassion is clearly seen in his constant focus on the oppressed and impoverished. He identified himself and empathized with them, dressed like them and after 1917 even lived like them in a mud hut, though brought up in comparitive luxury in his youth and held a British legal degree. "I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall that it is their country, in whose making they have an effective voice" he affirmed.

In his long letter to the Viceroy Lord Irwin prior to the Salt March he wrote "Why do I regard the British rule as a curse? Because it has impoverished the dumb millions by a system of progressive exploitation and by a ruinous, expensive military and civil administration which the country cannot afford". References to the "impoverished dumb millions" were numerous and frequent in his speeches and writings. His emphasis on Khadi was primarily for their benefit. "Khadi means employment for the poor and freedom for India. Britain holds India because it is a fine market for Lancashire …"

His compassion is also testified by the "talisman" he gave to India's new leaders. "Whenever you are in doubt, try the following expedient. Recall the face of the poorest and the most helpless man whom you have seen and ask yourself whether the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he be able to gain anything by it? Will it restore to him control over his own life and destiny? In other words will it lead to self rule for the hungry and spiritually starved millions of our countrymen?"

When Gandhi was assassinated in January 1948 his only earthly possessions were two sets of wrap around cotton cloths, a wrist watch, his spectacles, three sacred books, two wooden food bowls and spoons, two pairs of wooden sandals and a walking stick! This is dedication and self abnegation par excellence.

The firmness of Gandhi's determination is seen in his promptly calling off his February 1922 Satyagraha when incidents of violence occurred. In calling it off he declared. "I had called on the people to launch upon civil disobedience before they had qualified themselves for it and this mistakes seemed to me of Himalayan magnitude".

- Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership
*by **Pascal Alan Nazareth***

'Reconsider Draft Bill on safety of dams'

D.O.Letter dated 11.09.2016 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I write seeking your personal intervention regarding the Draft Dam Safety Bill, 2016, which has been circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, for the comments of the State Governments.

You may recall that a similar Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in 2010, by the then UPA Government. At that stage, I had on 29.07.2011 and 17.03.2012 written to the then Prime Minister conveying our objections to certain clauses contained in the Draft Bill. That Bill has lapsed and it appears that the Government of India now seeks to introduce a new Bill. It is unfortunate that none of the views already conveyed by me on the earlier Bill appear to have been considered while preparing the present Draft Bill.

I recognize that the safety and security of national assets like dams is of paramount importance. State Governments are fully conscious of the duty to manage and maintain dams properly.

In this context, any legislation to regulate Dam Safety must ensure that the functions and rights of the State Governments within our constitutional scheme are not abrogated or trampled upon in any manner. This area is governed by Entry 17 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. There are clear boundaries on the area of legislative and executive competence in this field and the proposed new legislation must respect these boundaries.

In the Dam Safety Bill, 2010, introduced in the Lok Sabha, a clear indication had been given in the Preamble and Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill, of the legislative competence under which the Bill was being introduced in Parliament. Hence, the legislation was to apply only to those States whose legislatures had passed resolutions under

Article 252(1) calling upon Parliament to make a law on the subject and to those States whose legislatures adopted the Act after its passage. **No such indication has been given in the present draft and the intent appears to be to extend the legislation throughout the country.**

Dams and Reservoirs constructed on a river flowing within the State fall squarely within the State Government's competence under Entry 17 of List II. Such Dams and Reservoirs are owned, operated and maintained by the State Governments concerned.

The overriding powers proposed to be given to the National Dam Safety Organisation to inspect dams and reservoirs in States is against the spirit of the Constitution.

There are clear lines of authority which are laid down on the agencies and officials responsible for maintenance and safety and detailed manuals are to be followed for each dam. I do not think that the creation of a National Authority and a Committee system at the National and State levels as proposed in the Draft Bill would be a workable arrangement in this context adding significant value.

We must ensure that laid down lines of accountability and control are not dissipated through the proposed Authority/Committee mechanism.

The present draft Bill does not specifically provide for Dams and Reservoirs which are owned, operated and maintained by a State, but located in another State by virtue of long standing Inter-State agreements which have been upheld through Supreme Court judgments. This is a grave omission. There are established rights under pre-existing long term agreements which require that certain dams in a State are operated and maintained by another State. Tamil Nadu's Mullai Periyar, Parambikulam, Thunakkadavu and Peruvarippallam Dams are owned, operated and maintained by the Government of Tamil Nadu by virtue of Inter State Agreements, but are located in a neighbouring State. The present draft law, by oversight or deliberate design, cannot and should not overturn such rights, which would affect a large number of farmers and households depending on the reservoirs for irrigation and drinking water supply.

The Bill ought to have contained a proviso/ Explanation which ensures that in the case of such dams, which are located in one State, but are owned, operated and maintained by another State, the State owning, operating and maintaining the dam should be recognized and treated as the dam owning State and made responsible for the safety of the dam. Hence, necessary proviso/Explanation should be incorporated under Clauses 10, 12, 13, 23 and other related Clauses of the Dam Safety Bill, 2016.

No other arrangement would be fair or balanced.

The proposed provision in the Dam Safety Bill, 2016, to authorise the Dam Safety Organisation of the State where the dam is located to inspect the specified Dams and enter

upon any part of a specified Dam or its site to carry out investigation and suggest remedial measures for repair and reconstruction, will be against the Constitution Bench verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 07.05.2014, which categorically asserted the ownership of Tamil Nadu on Mullai Periyar Dam and entrusted its maintenance and upkeep to Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu as the dam owning State has the required competence and capacity to maintain and operate such dams and to carry out maintenance and repair works for proper upkeep.

The Draft Bill, 2016, stipulates that the State Dam Safety Organisation will have jurisdiction over all Dams located in a State irrespective of who owns, operates and maintains the dam. These are unacceptable provisions and must be suitably modified with the introduction of a proviso/Explanation as already indicated. One more key issue is that many dams are located in hilly terrain and within forests, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. In all such cases, to ensure dam safety, it is very important that dam maintenance officials and personnel must have unrestricted rights to enter into the forest or protected areas to inspect and carry out dam safety maintenance and rehabilitation measures. Hence, a specific clause ought to have been included in the Bill to enable such access.

This was also a suggestion I had made earlier when I had written to the then Prime Minister and it is unfortunate that this suggestion has also not been taken note of in the new Draft Bill.

In a context where the Draft Bill omits to cover crucial areas and may only end up compromising existing accountability mechanisms and arrangements, I am of the view that since State Governments have adequate expertise and experience on Dam Safety and as the Central Water Commission is also associated with Dam Safety aspects, there appears to be no pressing need or necessity to have a Central legislation on the issue. Since the draft Bill covers an area which falls in large measure within the legislative competence of States, Government of India must desist from needless adventurism and not ride rough shod over the federal constitutional framework. Hence, I request you to direct the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, to reconsider the need for the proposed legislation on Dam Safety.

My Government has analyzed the Draft Bill in detail without prejudice to our stand on the issue. In addition to the lacunae that I have already pointed out, there are detailed comments on drafting and related issues which I have instructed the Chief Secretary to communicate to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation at the official level.

I request you to have the need for such a legislation re-examined. I also reiterate that the matter should not be proceeded with, in haste, without discussing the issues raised by Tamil Nadu threadbare".

Release of water from Mettur Reservoir

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
*Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 16.09.2016 (English Translation)*

The Cauvery delta is the granary of Tamil Nadu. Cauvery river is the mainstay for paddy cultivation in this region. On Supreme Court orders, a Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was set up to resolve the long-standing dispute with Karnataka on sharing the waters of the river. The Tribunal gave its final verdict on 05.02.2007. The final order of the Tribunal was published in the Central Government Gazette on 19.02.2013 on account of the persistent action taken by my Government in the Supreme Court. Still, the Central Government has not constituted the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee. Hence, we have to approach the Supreme Court to get our due share of the waters in the Cauvery river. My Government filed petitions in the Supreme Court even in 2013 for the setting up of these bodies and the petitions are still pending in the Court.

As the Karnataka Government did not release water in the current irrigation year, as per the final orders of the Tribunal, the Tamil Nadu Government sent letters to the Karnataka Government to release our share of water and to the Central Government to advise Karnataka to release water. Since the Karnataka Government did not release water as per those

letters, an interim petition, on my orders, was filed in the Supreme Court on 22.08.2016. That petition stated that Karnataka did not release water as per the quantum mentioned in the final order of the Tribunal and prayed for the issue of a directive to Karnataka to release the water to Tamil Nadu.

I announced a Rs.64.30 crore special package in the Assembly on 18.08.2016 for delta farmers to take up samba cultivation through direct sowing in the event of Mettur Reservoir not receiving the required quantum of water to meet our needs. At present, the delta farmers are in a position to take up samba cultivation in full swing due to the implementation of the scheme based on that announcement.

After hearing the Tamil Nadu petition for release of its due share of water, the Supreme Court directed the Karnataka Government to release at the Biligundlu water gauge station point, 15,000 cusecs of water daily for 10 days from 05.09.2016. After hearing the petition filed by the Karnataka Government, the Supreme Court ordered a release of 12,000 cusecs of water daily from 12.09.2016 to 20.09.2016 and stated that this order would be in force till 20.09.2016. On the basis of this order, 8.92 tmc ft. of water has been received at the Biligundlu water gauge station point till 14.09.2016. The Supreme Court, also ordered the Cauvery Supervisory Committee to calculate the quantum of water to be issued to Tamil Nadu as per the final order of the Tribunal and issue orders.

As on 16.09.2016, the water level in the Mettur reservoir is 84.76 ft. In anticipation of receipt of water from Karnataka reservoirs as per the Supreme Court orders, on the basis that the Cauvery Supervisory Committee will order Karnataka to release our due share of waters and in the hope that the North-East Monsoon will be normal this year, I have issued orders for the release of water from Mettur reservoir for irrigation from 20.09.2016. ■

Government schemes for own houses for all people

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 17.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

My Government has been implementing various kinds of housing schemes with the goal of providing own houses to all sections of people.

In the last 5 years, 59,023 dwelling units have been constructed through the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. Ten thousand five hundred and thirty-seven more dwelling units are under construction.

I have issued orders for the implementation of the following new schemes by way of catering to the interests of the different sections of people:

1.I have ordered the construction of 50,000 dwelling units in the current year at a cost of Rs.1,800 crore through the Slum Clearance Board. In this, subsidy to an extent of Rs.945 crore will be given towards construction of 45,000 houses by beneficiaries in their

own sites. The subsidy will be Rs.2.10 lakh per house. I have also issued orders for the construction of 5,000 apartments.

2. My Government has already implemented an interest waiver scheme in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 in the interest of Tamil Nadu Housing Board allottees for getting their sale deeds. The scheme has benefited 14,992 allottees. Still, 23,600 persons who have been allotted house sites/houses by the Board, are unable to get the sale deed. Learning this, I have ordered the implementation of a concessional scheme to reduce the interest burden of these allottees. As per this scheme, the penal interest for defaulting payment of monthly instalments and the interest on capitalization will be totally waived and the interest on the price difference after fixation of the final land price will be waived for 5 months for every year for those beneficiaries who have voluntarily come forward and settled their outstanding with the Housing Board in full.

3. Through the Housing Board, 1,500 apartments are being constructed at Sholinganallur. In continuation of this, I have ordered the construction of 2,000 apartments for the low/middle / high income groups. These will be constructed at a cost of Rs.600 crore. As per this scheme, low income group houses will be priced below Rs. 20 lakh. The house, measuring 645 sq.ft will have a reception room, two bedrooms and a kitchen. The flats for the middle income group, measuring 807 sq. ft will be priced less then Rs.30 lakh.

4. In the damaged Government employees quarters, 660 rental tenements have been renovated in the last 5 years. Nine hundred and four Government employees rental tenements in the cities of Dindigul, Madurai, Pudukkottai, Tiruchirappalli, Erode and Hosur, are in a damaged condition. I have issued orders for the demolition of these tenements and construction, through the Housing Board, of 908 Government employees rental tenements and 1,266 more under the self-financing scheme for sale to the general public, at a cost of Rs.401.84 crore.

5. To fulfil the housing needs of the different sections of people, I have ordered the construction, through the Housing Board, of 873 houses under the self–financing scheme in the Districts of Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Krishnagiri, Madurai,Thanjavur and Tirunelveli at a cost of Rs.256.34 crore.

6. The poor have to spend more by way of rent to conduct auspicious events like marriage in marriage halls. Hence, I have ordered the construction of 'Amma Marriage Mandapams' to benefit them. These mandapams will have all facilities like air-conditioned make-up room, separate rooms for the bride and bridegroom, rooms for the guests, dining hall and kitchen. This scheme will be implemented through the Housing Board and Co-operative Housing Societies. This scheme will be implemented at 11 places – Tondiarpet, Velacherry, Ayappakkam, Paruthipattu, Periyar Nagar, Korattur, Anna Nagar in Madurai District, Ambasamudram (Tirunelveli), Salem Municipality (Salem), Kodungaiyur (Tiruvallur) and at Udumalpet in Tiruppur District - at a cost of Rs.83 crore. Facility to book online these marriage halls will also be created.

These steps will help all sections of people get housing facility and the poor to conduct their auspicious events at low rent. ■

Pathinen Keezhkanakku classics to be translated into French, German

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 13.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

Assimilating the changes wrought by Time and daring challenges and antagonism, the wonderful Tamil Language which is more pleasant that nectar itself, is shining even today, as a magnificent one amidst world languages.

Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar sang: 'Thellutra thamizhamudhin suvai kandaar/Ingu Amarar Sirappai kandaar' (Those who have delved deep into nectarian Tamil, attained the greatness of celestials on earth.) By way of substantiating his saying, my Government has been implementing countless welfare schemes for intellectuals and scholars who serve the cause of Tamil language, besides honouring them.

In that way, 55 awards have been instituted in the last 5 years to honour such scholars and intellectuals.

To acquaint foreigners about the greatness of Tamil, Tirukkural, the common sacred text for the entire world, has been translated and published in the Mandarin and Arab languages by my Government. Tirukkural has also been translated into the Korean language and is about to be published.

Likewise, the songs of Mahakavi Bharathiyar and Puratchi Kavignar Bharathidasan have been translated into Mandarin and Arab languages and the works have been published.

In our Election Manifesto, we promised to translate ancient Tamil work into other languages. By way of implementing this promise, I have issued orders for translating, through the World Tamil Research Institute, select Pathinen Keezhkanakku' works into the world language of French and German and into the Indian languages of Malayalam, Hindi and Telugu.

This will help enlighten further, the international community about the richness of Tamil Language.

Village temples and temples in Adi Dravidar, ST colonies to get more funds for repairs

Temples are the symbols of our culture and civilization. They provide peace and a sense of fulfillment to people. They promote spirituality and righteousness in society and teach discipline.

The Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa is implementing many schemes for the benefit of devotees visiting the temples.

In the election manifesto for the recently held Assembly Elections, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had promised to increase the fund allocation for temple works in village temples and in temples located in the colonies of Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes from Rs.50,000/- to Rs. 1 lakh.

By way of implementing this promise, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has passed orders for increasing the fund allocation to Rs. 1 lakh per temple for temple and repair works in temples in rural areas under the control of the HR& CE Department. To meet this expenditure, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has authorized the HR & CE Commissioner to divert funds from the surplus fund of financially well-off temples.

Likewise, orders have been issued to raise the allocation to Rs. 1 lakh for temple and repairs works in temples in the colonies of Adi Dravidar and ST, not under the control of HR & CE Department also and for the diversion of funds from rich temples for meeting the expenditure towards this.

Chief Minister launches pioneering seaweed cultivation scheme

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 21.09.2016, the seaweed cultivation scheme in shallow sea areas in the 13 coastal Districts of the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented sanctioning orders for Rs.4.50 lakh each to 5 Fisherwomen Amma Groups of Punnakayal Village, Thoothukudi District for the seaweed cultivation.

There is lush growth of seaweeds in coastal sea areas of Tamil Nadu. Carrageenan is a type of flour produced from the seaweeds. This is used in food, chemicals, medicine, cosmetics production, ice cream and in the preparation of tooth paste. Farmers use seaweeds as a natural fertilizer as all nutrients needed for the crop are in it. As its production is low in India, about 1,500 tonnes of carrageenan are imported every year from abroad.

To increase the production of seaweed in Tamil Nadu, it has been planned to cultivate seaweed in the shallow areas of the sea in the coastal Districts of the State. The pioneering scheme is implemented entirely through fisherwomen groups on a contract basis.

For seaweed cultivation, the scheme assistance to the fisherwomen Amma groups is Rs.4.50 lakh. The State Government's subsidy in this is Rs.2.25 lakh. The scheme provides for raising a loan for the balance amount of Rs.2.25 lakh with Bank of India.

The scheme also provides for the distribution/ sale of seaweed seeds . In 60 kg seeds, a group can harvest on the 46th day upto 260 to 300 kg of seaweed through 5 bamboo racks. The Tamil Nadu Fisheries College will provide technical assistance to these groups. Provisions have been made for sale of seaweeds grown by these groups to private companies. ■

Anna Medals to126 Personnel for devotion to duty

Hon'ble Chief Minister Awards Anna Medals to 126 Officers/Men in Police & Other Uniformed Services on the occasion of Dr. Anna's Birthday

In recognition of the Outstanding Devotion to Duty of the Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Prison Service, Home Guards and Finger Print Science personnel in the State and also to encourage them, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medals are announced and awarded on the occasion of Dr. Anna's Birthday on 15th September, every year.

Accordingly, this year 100 Police personnel from the rank of Superintendent of Police to the rank of Grade-I Police Constables, 7 Fire and Rescue Service personnel from the rank of Station Officer to Fireman, 9 Prison Service personnel from the rank of Deputy Jailor to Grade-I Warden, 8 Home Guards personnel in the ranks of Assistant Commandant General to Assistant Section Leader, and also two Deputy Superintendents of Police in police Finger Print Science, totally 126 personnel have been awarded the "Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Anna Medal" in recognition of their outstanding devotion to duty. The recipients of the above Medal are eligible for a bronze medal and a lumpsum grant according to the ranks as specified in the Medal Rules.

These Medals will be presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to the recipients in a Ceremonial Medal Parade to be held in due course. ■

NEWS IN PICTURES

On the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Sports and Youth Welfare Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin and Youth Welfare and Sports Development Secretary Dr.Rajendrakumar I.A.S. received Thiru. T.Mariappan, who won the gold medal in the High Jump category in the Paralympics held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil on his arrival at Chennai Airport on 23.09.2016.

Allotment for church, mosque repairs

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 18.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

My Government is implementing many pioneering schemes for safeguarding the interests of minorities and to enhance their educational and economic conditions.

Financial assistance is provided for Jerusalem pilgrimage. So far, 2,340 Christians have benefited.

The administrative subsidy for the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board has been increased from Rs.45 lakh to Rs. 1 crore; that for Hajj Committee from Rs.20 lakh to Rs.30 lakh. As announced in this year's budget, the monthly pension for the Ulemas is to be increased from Rs.1,000/- to Rs.1,500/-.

I have ordered the implementation of the following new schemes by way of safeguarding the interests of minorities:

1.We had pledged in our election manifesto that Government subsidy would be provided for repair and reconstruction works of churches. By way of honouring this promise, I have issued orders for providing subsidy upto Rs.3 lakh for repair and renovation works of churches. In the current year, Rs. 1 crore will be allotted for this.

2.The Tamil Nadu Government has been giving Rs. 60 lakh per year to Wakf Board for taking up repair and reconstruction works in its institutions like mosques and dargahs. In our election manifesto, we had promised to provide financial assistance for the creation of a separate Fund in Wakf Board towards giving assistance for repair works in mosques. By way of honouring that promise, a Corpus Fund will be created for undertaking repair works in Wakf Board institutions like mosques and dargahs. I have directed that Rs. 3 crore be given to this corpus fund.

These measures will help minorities' places of worship to shine. ■

Chief Minister announces more facilities for Adi Dravidar, ST students

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 18.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

My Government has been implementing many schemes with the goal of releasing the Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities from poverty so that they can get education and livelihood resources on par with the rest of society.

In the last 5 years, own buildings have been constructed for 93 Adi Dravidar and ST hostels; 54 hostels have been opened; essential infrastructural facilities in 1,080 students' hostels have been upgraded at a cost of Rs.83 crore; 1,500 seats have been additionally created for students in Adi Dravidar/ST hostels; food allowance to students in school hostels has been increased from Rs. 450/- to Rs. 755/- that for college students from Rs.550/- to Rs.875/- two-tier cots to college hostel students and power laundry machines to college women's hostels have been supplied; some hostels have been given in the first phase steam boilers to prepare food and steam idly cookers. Pillows with cover have been supplied to students. Rain coat and woollen shirts have been provided to hostel students in hilly areas.

Seventy-three schools, functioning under the Department of Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes Welfare, have been upgraded into High and Higher Secondary Schools. Smart class rooms have been set up in 100 Higher Secondary Schools. New Industrial Training Institutes have been opened. Government bears the tuition fee of Adi Dravidar and ST students admitted to self-financing colleges under merit/ fee quota as also those of Adi Dravidar students converted to Christianity.

In the interest of Adi Dravidar and ST welfare, I have ordered the implementation of the following new schemes:

1. As there is no separate hostel building for the Tribal Residential School at Karumanthurai in Salem District, girl students of the school are staying in Panchayat Union buildings. Hence, I have ordered the construction of an own building for this hostel at a cost of Rs.3.60 crore. I have also directed girl's enrollment in this school be increased from 135 to 200.

2. At the Government Tribal Higher Secondary School, functioning under the control of the Forest Department at Jawadu Hills, Vellore District, 700 students are studying. Considering the absence of a Government girls' hostel there, I have ordered the construction of a girls' hostel to accommodate 200 students, at a cost of Rs.3.94 crore.

3. I have ordered power connection to the pumpsets of 1,000 Adi Dravidar

farmers under the Quick Power Connection Programme. TAHDCO will provide TANGEDCO Rs. 7.50 crore towards the fixed deposit to be given to the Electricity Board for this.

4. The Tribal Residential Primary School at Arasavalli, Polur Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District, is functioning for the last 32 years. Students who have completed fifth standard in this school, have to trek a long distance to go to middle schools. Hence, I have ordered the upgradation of the Arasavalli Government Tribal Primary Residential School to Middle School. This will also benefit Primary School students in Kudigam, Thenthur, Mandapaarai and Pudupattu. The upgradation will cost Rs.3.50 crore.

5. I have ordered switching over to the bio-metric mode for registering the attendance of students, teachers and workers in 306 Tribal Residential schools, 42 Tribal hostels and in 2 Ekalaiva Model Residential schools from the present format. This will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1.54 crore.

6. Computer mode teaching will enhance students' understanding ability and easy absorption of lessons. Hence, computer mode teaching class rooms have been created in Tribal Residential Higher Secondary Schools. To benefit the students in Tribal Residential Schools, I have ordered the setting up of a Smart Class Room in 25 schools at a cost of Rs.1.29 crore.

These measures will help improve the educational and economic conditions of the Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe communities.

Slew of steps for temples

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 19.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

Apart from being treasure houses of our great and ancient cultural traditions, temples foster ethical values, spiritual feeling and good character. My Government keenly carries out works like attending to repairs in temples, ensuring the conduct of daily poojas without any hindrance, retrieving temple properties under encroachment and improving their income and arranging the needed facilities to devotees.

I have ordered the implementation of the following schemes through the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department:

1. From ancient times, people's life in Tamil Nadu has revolved around temples. A variety of service providers like sculptors, 'sthapathis', construction workers, carpenters, metal sculptors, handicraft artists, building experts, weavers, goldsmiths, archakas, village temple poojaris, musicians, dance artists,

nagaswara artists, traders in pooja articles, garden-keepers to weave garlands, cooks, folk artists, painters and persons giving religious discourses served the temples and devotees. Many of them have become poor due to lack of patronage as time went by and their invaluable skills are on the verge of extinction. I have ordered the implementation of a scheme for upgrading their skills and design technology by enlarging their livelihood opportunities. This scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.5 crore.

2. The ancient temples in Tamil Nadu have invaluable bronzes and statues fashioned several centuries ago, as well as immovable properties like land and buildings. I have ordered that an inventory be taken of them. All details will be computerized and inventories will be created for temples. The location of temple properties will be marked in maps for easy identification through the geographical information system (GIS). Temple properties will be properly measured and documented through the Global Positioning System (GPS). Steps will be taken to offer services like room allotment, donations to golden chariot and 'annadhanam' and other additional services through internet. Steps will also be taken to create websites gradually for getting full details about temples. Mobile Apps will be developed to easily access temple services. A separate software will be created to improve temple administration through enterprise resource planning. This will be done at a cost of Rs. 1 crore.

3. A modern multi-media portal, with background music, will be designed at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh for viewing the events in temples in Tamil Nadu by documenting them with pictures and video clippings.

4. 'Oru Kaala Poojai Fund' scheme was started for conducting pooja at least once in a day in temples which do not have means to conduct poojas. To implement the scheme on a permanent basis, the scheme is implemented from 1993, involving the people. Presently, 12,504 temples benefit under the scheme. I have directed to extend the scheme to 241 more temples. This will cost Rs.2.41 crore of which devotees share will be Rs.24.10 lakh and that of the HR & CE Department Rs.2,16,90,000/-.

5. Articles for performing pooja, costing Rs.2.44 crore, were supplied to 10,000 small temples last year for conducting 'kaala poojas' in a proper way. To conduct poojas in a proper way in 10,000 more small temples, I have ordered the purchase of articles like brass plates, 'dhoopakkaal', bell, lamp and hanging lamp ('Thongu vilakku') this year. This will cost Rs.2.50 crore.

6. New wooden chariots will be made for Arulmigu Azhagirinathaswamy Temple Fort, Salem District and Arulmigu Navaneetheswaraswamy Temple, Sikkal, Nagapattinam District at a cost of Rs.63 lakh; for the Arulmigu Kailasanathar Temple, Arani and Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Sathya Vijaya Nagar, both in Tiruvannamalai District, new wooden chariots will made at a

cost of Rs.31 lakh and Rs.17 lakh respectively. The new chariots will replace the damaged old ones.

7. New 'Annadhana Koodams' will be constructed in temples at a cost of Rs.2.20 crore. The beneficiary temples include Arulmigu Pralayakaleswarar Temple, Pennadam, Cuddalore District, Arulmigu Ayyappan Temple, Thallakulam, Madurai District, Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Ukkadam, Coimbatore District and Arulmigu Bhuvaragaswamy Temple, Srimushnam, Cuddalore District.

8. I have ordered construction of additional class rooms on 3,634 sq.ft. at a cost of Rs.66 lakh for Swamy Nellaiyappar Anbu Ashram, Mettuthidal, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District, a new science laboratory building, six class rooms and a compound wall at a cost of Rs.86 lakh for Arulmigu Periyanayaki Amman Girls Higher Secondary School, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur District and for taking up development works, costing Rs.45 lakh in Parasakthi Women's College, Courtallam, Tirunelveli District.

9. A Maha Mandapam will be constructed at a cost of Rs.69 lakh in Arulmigu Swayambu Saneeswara Bhagawan Temple, Kuchanur, Uthamapalayam Taluk, Theni District.

10. A new marriage hall will be constructed at an estimate of Rs.95 lakh in Arulmigu Subramanyaswamy Temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam District. 'Sevaarthi' mandapams and safety vaults will be constructed at a cost of Rs.57 lakh in Arulmigu Nallaandavar Temple, Manaparai, and Arulmigu Gneelivaneswarar Temple, Thiruppaijneeli, both in Tiruchirappalli District and in Arulmigu Pechiamman Temple, Senpagathoppu, Virudhunagar District and a rest room for devotees at a cost of Rs. 60 lakh in Sri Thirumalaikumaraswamy Temple, Panmozhi, Tirunelveli District.

11. Under the Department-level pension scheme, a monthly pension of Rs.1,000/- is now given to retired employees of temples under the control of HR & CE Department. Acceding to the request of these pensioners and taking into account their family conditions, their monthly pension will be increased from Rs.1,000/- to Rs.2,000/-. This will benefit 3,700 pensioners. The annual additional expenditure on this count, will be Rs.4.44 crore.

These measures will enhance the standing of the temples and provide greater facilities to devotees.

Confident steps for giving skills to workers, creating a skilled labour society

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 20.09.2016 (English Translation)

As technical education is essential for the country's economy to soar up and for the growth of employment opportunities, my Government is keen on encouraging technical education and in creating human resources with technical skills.

To safeguard workers welfare, I have ordered the implementation of the following new schemes:

1. In our election manifesto, we had pledged that we would set up 'Amma Two –Wheeler Repair Training Centre' in all Panchayat unions, and provide short-term training and help the trained personnel in self-employment. Accordingly, I have ordered the setting up of two-wheeler repair and maintenance training institutes, this year, in 35 Panchayat Unions having a Government Industrial Training Institute. Each one of these repair and maintenance training institutes will impart training to 30 persons for 3 months. During the training period, a monthly stipend of Rs.3,000/- will be given. This scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1.68 crore.

2. We had also promised in our election manifesto that youth- men and women would be given skill development training for getting placements and for self employment and the training centres would be located in Panchayat unions and in urban areas. From 2013, the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation is functioning as a special purpose vehicle to co-ordinate all the skill development training offered in the State. I have ordered the setting up of these training centres through this Corporation, in a phased manner in each Panchayat Union and the imparting of two types of skill development training. Those who have passed the 10th and 12th standard examinations will be given technological skill development training for their absorption in industries. Besides, a basic training will also be given to get employment in service sector and to become self-employed.

In that way, this year, 3,600 persons will be given training for 3 months at the rate of 60 in 60 Panchayat Unions having Government Industrial Training Institutes. A monthly stipend of Rs.3000/- will be given during the training period. A sum of Rs. 2.94 crore will be spent on this scheme.

Also, I have ordered skill development training be given to 20,000 youths in Municipal Corporation, Municipal and Town Panchayat areas, in service sector jobs of salesman, accountant, security, nurse/health assistant and in house keeping through the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. This training programme will be executed at a cost of Rs.18 crore.

3. A Centre of Excellence and 5 Technical Skill Development Institutes (t – SDIs) will be set up at an estimate of Rs.546.84 crore under the public-private partnership mode with

Siemens and Designtech Ltd., companies. I have issued orders, sanctioning Rs. 54.68 crore as government share for the Centre of Excellence and the 5 technical skill development institutes.

Institutions offering technical education will be selected for research work to be undertaken under this scheme. The Centre of Excellence and the 5 Technical Skill Development Institutes will be set up on the Hub & Spoke model. While the Centre of Excellence, the hub, will be located at the MIT complex in Anna University, the 5 technical skill development institutes, the spokes, will be located at the Central College of Technology, Taramani, Anna University college, Kancheepuram, Anna University college, Villupuram, Murugappa College of Technology, Avadi and Government Engineering College, Vellore.

The operational cost for the first 3 years will be borne by Siemens and Designtech companies.

Those who undergo training for 3 years in these centres, will impart training to other institutions.

4. In the last 5 years, welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.232,92,68,695/- was distributed to 7,16,602 beneficiaries through the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board. My Government set up the Tamil Nadu Construction Corporation on 04.01.2013 to improve the construction work-related skills of construction workers and provide re-training through Industrial Training Institutes. Through this Corporation, short term training is given to Government and Government recognized private Industrial Training Institutes in electricity, painting, carpentry, construction, rod bending, masonry, land measurement, fixing of pipes and in other trades. I have issued orders for the setting up of a 'Construction Skill Training Institute' for giving skill training to workers and youth in various sectors of construction work by creating interactions between the construction companies and industrial training institutes. This Construction Skill Training Institute will come up on 25,388 sq.metre in the 5 acres allotted to the Tamil Nadu Construction Corporation at Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram District at a cost of Rs.28 crore. The Construction Industry Development Council will set up the training institute jointly with the Tamil Nadu Construction Corporation under the public-private partnership mode. This training institute will provide construction-related skill training offered at the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. The Institute will train 5,000 persons every year. To critically review the quality and excellence of the training given by this institute, I have ordered the setting up of a Management Committee, jointly by the Tamil Nadu Construction Corporation and Construction Industry Development Council.

5. There are 216 Employees State Insurance (ESI) Dispensaries and 10 ESI Hospitals in Tamil Nadu. In the last 5 years, 33 new ESI dispensaries were started to benefit 1,81,680 workers. Also, 42 new areas were attached to existing ESI dispensaries to benefit 50,253 workers.

I have issued orders to open, this year, new ESI dispensaries in 11 places – Oothukuli, Duraisamypuram, Manachanallur, Kalpakkam, Mahabalipuram, Athipattu, Kulathur, Thirumudivakkam, Panruti, Perumanallur and Kulasekaram - to benefit more workers. These dispensaries will be set up at a cost of Rs.12.70 crore.

Through these measures, a skilled labour society will be created by giving workers the required training and help them get jobs also.

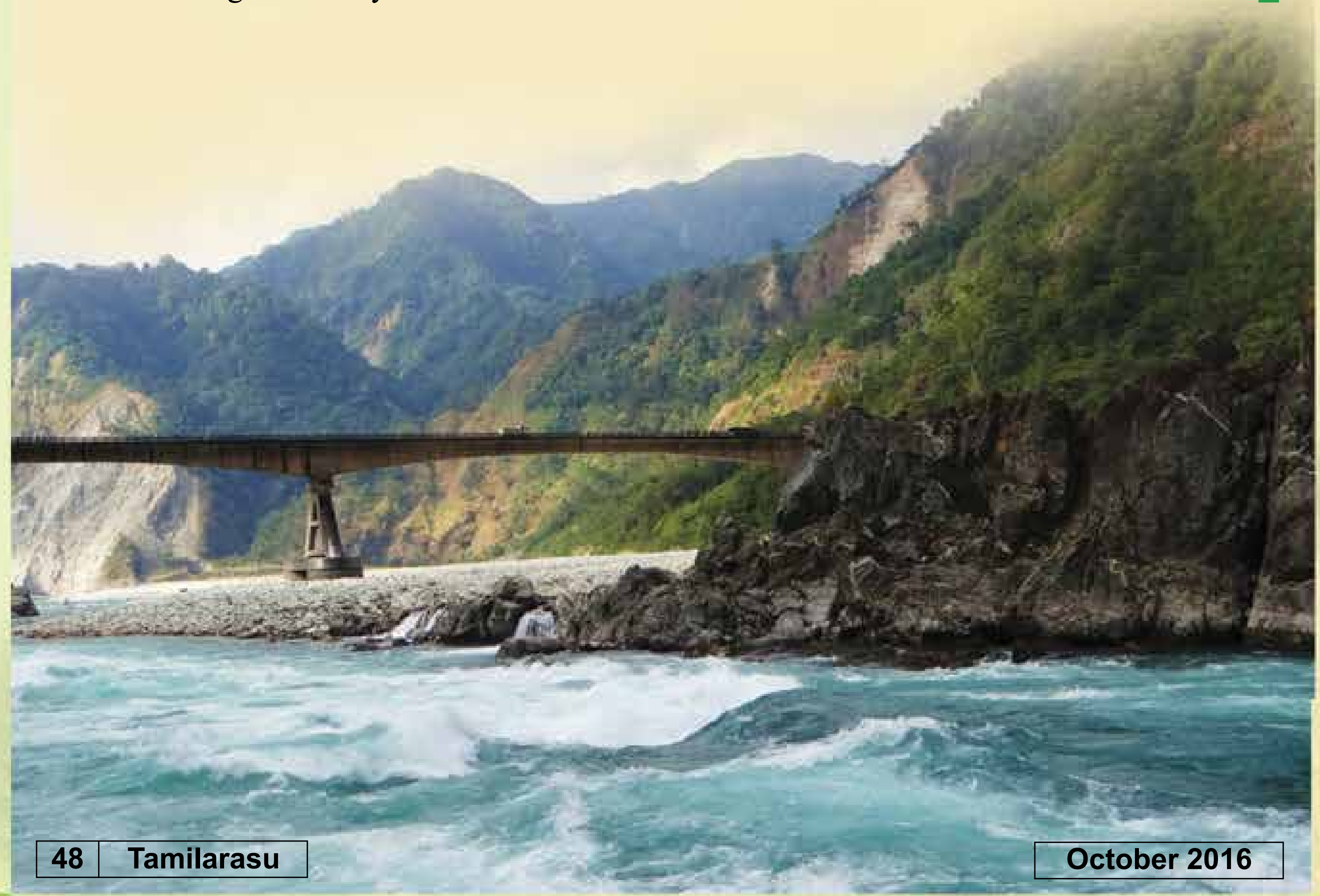
Chief Minister convened from hospital, meet on Cauvery interim directions of Supreme Court

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa convened a meeting between 4.30 pm and 5.30 pm on 27.09.2016 in her room in the Apollo Hospital, Greams Road, Chennai, on the Interim directions issued by the Supreme Court on the Cauvery issue. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was apprised of the directions of the Supreme Court on 27.09.2016 on the Applications filed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with reference to the orders of the Supreme Court dated 05/06.09.2016, 12.09.2016 and 20.09.2016 along with the Application filed by Tamil Nadu on 26.09.2016 that Karnataka shall not be heard on any matter on Cauvery until and unless it complies with and makes good the shortfall in releases as directed by the Supreme Court. In this meeting, the Chief Secretary to Government, Dr. P. Rama Mohana Rao I.A.S., Advocate General, Thiru. R. Muthukumaraswamy Adviser to Government, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan IAS., (Retd.), Principal Secretary-I to Chief Minister,

Thiru. K. N. Venkataramanan IAS.,(Retd.) and Secretary-IV to Chief Minister, Thiru. A. Ramalingam I.A.S., participated.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister was apprised of the directions of the Supreme Court directing Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for the next 3 days. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was apprised that the matter has been posted for further hearing at 2 pm on 30.09.2016. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was also apprised that the Supreme Court had directed the Attorney General to facilitate a meeting with Executive Heads of the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with the Ministry of Water Resources to recommend ways to break the impasse in the issue. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was informed that the above meeting is likely to be scheduled on 29.09.2016 (Thursday). The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the Minister for Public Works, Highways and Minor Ports Department, Thiru. Edapaddi K. Palaniswami, the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. P. Rama Mohana Rao I.A.S., and Principal Secretary, Public Works Department, Thiru.S. K. Prabakar I.A.S., and Chairman, Cauvery Technical Cell, Thiru. R. Subramaniam to attend the meeting on behalf of the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister discussed in detail the issues to be taken up by Tamil Nadu at the meeting. The Hon'ble Chief Minister dictated the speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, which will be read out at the meeting by the Chief Secretary to Government



Subramania Siva - shining example of selflessness and patriotism

October 4 is the birth anniversary of Thiyagi Subramania Siva

India's Freedom Fight is a great epic. Subramania Siva had dedicated his life to the cause of the country. His thought and action revolved around the country's freedom. Disease and poverty taunted him. Despite the sufferings inflicted by the two, he worked for the country dauntlessly by sheer will power. His caste – Bharatha Jaathi; his religion – Bharathiya religion; his God – Bharatha Maatha.

His last wish was construction of a temple for Bharatha Maatha and that all people, irrespective of caste and religion should worship Bharatha Maatha. To realize his goal, he set up an organization called 'Bharatha Ashram'. First, it was started in Karaikudi in 1921. He enrolled youth as its members, instilled patriotism in them and trained them in the art of drama. Through plays like 'Desingu Raja', he inculcated patriotism and Hindu-Muslim unity among people.

Subramania Siva was among the great leaders of Tamil Nadu. In diplomacy, he was like Shivaji; in devotion to country, a Tilak; and in humanism Swami Vivekananda.

Subramania Siva was born in Batlagundu, Madurai District on 04.10.1884. His parents were Rajam Iyer and Nagammal. They named him Subramanian. He was in Madurai till the age of 12. Due to poverty, he migrated to Thiruvananthapuram and continued his education, taking food in Oottupuraa, where free food was served. He studied in St. Michael's college in Coimbatore for a year. In 1899, he married Meenatchi Ammai.

In Thiruvananthapuram, the speeches of Takurkhan, an Arya Samajist and a high ranking nationalist stoked the flames of freedom in Subramania Siva's heart. He organised a 'Dharma Paripaalana Samajam' in Thiruvananthapuram by mobilizing youth. The Travancore Samasthanam expelled him for this. In the first week of 1908, he reached Thoothukudi.

Staying in V.O.C's house in Thoothukudi, Subramania Siva continued his work. He created in people the thirst for freedom. The two leaders continued their fiery orations. Toiling without rest in the cause of the freedom of the country, they started turning their gaze on the trade union movement.

Workers of the Coral Mill in Thoothukudi decided to launch an agitation demanding salary increase, weekly holiday and other leave facilities. Under the leadership of V.O.C. and Siva, the workers went on a strike from 27.02.1908. Despite the best efforts of Thoothukudi Sub- Collector Ash to derail the agitation, it went on. Strangely, the merchants and the general public wanted to defeat the agitation. It is to be mentioned that at a time when trade union movement was at its infant stage, funds were collected in a planned way to meet the economic problems of workers during the strike period.

Traders refused to sell food and articles to Britishers; servants refused to work for them; launderers refused to wash their clothes Patriotism rocked the entire Thoothukudi Town. The agitation won.

The mill administration agreed to increase the wages and declare Sunday as a holiday. In the presence of V.O.C., the manager of the Mill signed the agreement. Workers agreed to return to work. The success of this 9-day agitation reverberated in the whole country.

On March 8, 1908, Bipin Chandra Pal was released from prison and the Nationalistic leaders decided to celebrate that day as Swaraj Day. At Chennai, Bharathiar conducted meetings. At Thoothukudi, it was decided to celebrate the day under the leadership of V.O.C. and Siva. As a prohibitory order was promulgated for the meeting, it was held at Tirunelveli.

On 09.08.1908, District Collector Winch ordered V.O.C., Siva and Padmanabha Iyengar to appear before him. All the three went. There was a heated argument between Collector Winch and V.O. Chidambaranar. Bharathiar brings this discussion before our eyes as a drama in two songs.

The hearing was adjourned for the next day. People thronged the Court and brought V.O.Chidambaranar and Siva in a procession. A meeting was held on the banks of Tamirabarani. V.O.C. and Siva delivered heroic speeches. The hearing continued on a daily basis and the public meetings too continued.

On March 12, V.O.C. and Siva were arrested. The news spread like a wildfire. People were aroused.

On March 13, shops pulled down their shutters in Thoothukudi. There were demonstrations. Coral Mill workers who had returned to their work on March 7 after the agitation, again went on a strike on March 14 in support of the leaders V.O.C. and Siva and thus participated in the people's agitation. This is described as the first political strike in India, over the arrest of leaders and without placing any economic demand.

Judge Pinhey, on 07.07.1908 sentenced V.O.Chidambaranar to 2 life terms of imprisonment and Siva to 10 years rigorous imprisonment. Bharathiar fiercely criticized the sentence in the "India" newspaper. 'Bengali' and 'Vande Mataram' newspapers also criticized the verdict.

Siva was released on 02.11.1912. He settled in Chennai and started a monthly magazine, 'Gnana Banu' at Mylapore in 1913. The Maha Kavi used to mention that Bharathi would be a blind person if Pillai and Sivam were not there.

A good journalist, Subramania Siva had a clear vision of the duty and goal of an editor of a newspaper.

The duty of a newspaper owner was to explain what was meant by people's liberty, patriotism and the goal of humanity and render charitable service.

Newspaper owners should firmly believe they were the representatives of people and support the downtrodden the exploited, the innocent and the weak even if the skies fell on them. They should establish the truth, point out often both to the ruler and the ruled what their respective `dharmas' were and establish dharmam, truth, serenity and peace.

On 15.05.1915, Subramania Siva's wife Meenatchi Ammayar died of tuberculosis.

After his wife's demise, Subramania Siva threw himself totally into the service of the nation. After the closure of 'Gnana Banu', he started 'Prapancha Mithran' in 1916. He focused his attention in the field of writing. He wrote many books on politics, spirituality and social issues. He published the works of Vivekananda, the heroic monk who was the first to awaken India. He encouraged translation of these works. His foremost concern, at any stage, was service to the country. In his speeches and writing, he was emphatic that even renunciation was to involve oneself in the work of country's freedom without any hindrance and liberation connoted only the liberation of the country.

From 1919, a big change occurred in his health. On account of leprosy, his health deteriorated very badly. He worked hard unmindful of his health.

Siva issued a statement in English in 1924, appealing for funds for Bharatha Ashram and for the construction of Bharatha Maatha temple.

Nine conditions were stipulated for those who wanted to join this Ashram. It is to be noted that among the nine, patriotism, dedicating oneself for that cause, eschewing distinction on the grounds of caste and religion and strict adherence to discipline were listed as the most important ones to be strictly followed.

Siva participated in the special conference on non co-operation movement held in Calcutta in 1920. He supported Bipin Chandra Pal's resolution. Later, he participated and addressed the Ambur Khilafat conference and Villupuram political conference.

He switched over to the saffron dress of a sanyasin and assumed the name 'Swathanthraanandar'. He planned to construct the Bharatha Maatha temple in 1921 itself.

On 22.06.1923, Desabandu Chitharanjan Das laid the foundation stone for the Bharatha Maatha temple.

Along with his intensive involvement in the struggle for the freedom of the country, Subramania Siva took interest in workers' welfare. He was in touch with labour leaders like Singaravelar, Chakkarai Chettiar and Thiru. Vi.Ka. He took deep interest in labour issues and undertook constructive programmes. He was drawn to communism on account of his natural inclination towards search for knowledge, involvement in trade union movement and association with leaders like Singaravelar.

Siva felt that along with political independence, attaining socio-economic freedom alone would ensure total freedom and he worked towards that.

Through his majestic poems and spirited essays, Mahakavi Bharathiar spread the love of Tamil language and kindled the desire to fight for the freedom of the country. He retrieved the Tamil language from the palaces of kings, bungalows of rich people and from the temple corridors and made it a people's language. His nationalist friends V.O.C. and Siva too felt that developing Tamil language was a part of the service towards the country.

Both Chidambaranar and Siva were scholars, capable of penning down their autobiographies in poems. Like Bharathi, they had written many books. Siva was a good journalist, dramatist, poet, writer, an actor, a multi-faceted creative artist, an orator, friend of the working class, leader and a compassionate person. He was an enthusiast of Tamil language development and in the Tamil medium of instruction. His outlook on Tamil was excellent. A year before Maraimalai Adigalar founded the Pure Tamil Movement, in 1915 itself, Siva had a clear policy on pure Tamil. He started a sort of revolution by announcing an award of Rs.5/- to those who wrote essays in pure Tamil.

Patriotism was uppermost in whatever he did. His outlook on caste was enlarged by his unbounded sense of nationalism. He said let there be no caste enmity, nor caste pride. He said all could enter the sanctum sanctorum without any caste/religious distinction in his Bharatha Maatha temple and perform poojas. There was no place for 'archakas' there.

Service to nation became a daily ritual for him in whatever condition he was. He was a freedom fighter belonging to the Tilak school. A selfless and pure person. Even when the severity of his ailment started eating into him, he did not think much of getting the care of his relatives but came to Paappaarapatti from Madurai. The very next day, on 23.07.1925, around 5 a.m. he shed his mortal coil at Bharatha Ashram at the age of 41.

Courtesy: 'Thamizh Valartha Munnodigal'

Chief Minister writes to Karnataka CM to ensure protection for Tamils

D.O. letter dated 12.09.2016 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Thiru. Siddaramaiah**, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Bengaluru

"I write to bring to your urgent attention the need to ensure the safety and security of many lakhs of Tamil speaking people residing in Karnataka and of their properties in the light of the escalating incidents of violence taking place in many parts of Karnataka.

I have also received your letter dated 12.09.2016, regarding certain incidents in Tamil Nadu. As soon as the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court were received on 06.09.2016, and reports regarding violent protests in different parts of Karnataka were telecast by the media, directions were given to the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, to instruct all field formations to ensure that law and order is maintained and adequate protection provided to all Kannada speaking people and their properties in Tamil Nadu. The protests by some sections in Tamil Nadu, including by farmers, have been peaceful and lawful. Despite very provocative incidents that are taking place in Karnataka, absolute restraint has been observed in Tamil Nadu by all sections. We have ensured that no major incidents of any kind targeting Kannada speaking people or their properties have occurred.

The two minor incidents in Chennai and Ramanathapuram that have been referred to in the letter received from the Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Karnataka, addressed to the Principal Secretaries, Home and Public, Tamil Nadu, have already been acted on very promptly and cases registered and the miscreants arrested. In any event, all precautionary measures have been taken and law and order continues to be well maintained in Tamil Nadu.

I am concerned that the situation in Karnataka is serious with several instances of mob violence targeting Tamil speaking persons and their property. As per the reports received, the violence has escalated and a large number of vehicles, including more than 40 buses, 45 lorries and many other vehicles bearing Tamil Nadu number plates have been burnt and damaged. Groups of protesters from Karnataka are regularly assembling at the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border near Hosur and threatening vehicles and commuters from Tamil Nadu. Hotels and properties belonging to Tamils in Karnataka are being attacked and damaged. This is an alarming situation and is causing considerable anxiety.

I request you to take immediate and effective action to provide all necessary protection and security to ensure that no harm is caused to the person and property of Tamil speaking people in Karnataka".

India needs the heroism of Maruthu Pandiar to protect its freedom

October 24 is the memorial day of Maruthu Pandiar

Panchalankurichi earned a name and was hailed, even by the British, as the Gibraltar of Tamil Nadu. The general belief is that if one captures Gibraltar, it is easy to bring the entire Mediterranean region under one's control. It is endowed with such strong and very big natural barriers. So, the (East India) Company considered that once Panchalankurichi, the Gibraltar of Tamil Nadu was conquered, all of Tamil Nadu could be enslaved. To erase the name of Panchalankurichi from the memory of the people, the Company brass, in its anger and conceit, ordered the elimination of Panchalankurichi's name from the map of India. Bharathiar penned a poem depicting the hurt feelings of the heroic 'maravars' of Panchalankurichi and surrounding places on their downfall. It ran as follows: " We have lost our heroic prowess; we have been reduced to eking out our livelihood by doing menial jobs; we have lost our great fame; it has been sullied in this world". This had become the order of the day for the entire Tamil Nadu.

Today, the Empire that committed all these atrocities is gone. No one weeps over its destruction. But Tamil Nadu is full of people who become highly emotional on recollecting the history of Panchalankurichi and the heroic lives of Veerapandia Kattabomman, Oomaithurai and Maruthu Pandiar.

Tamils have not forgotten even a bit about Maruthu Pandiars even after the many atrocities perpetrated by the British. We have to recall how emotionally this fact was narrated by the late Dr. U.V.Swaminatha Iyer in his book 'En Charithiram' (my autobiography) even in 1891 when Gandhi's Freedom Movement had not been launched. Dr. Iyer was touring several places in search of Tamil palm leaves. He says: "People around Kundrakkudi were happy appreciating Maruthu Pandiars' munificence and narrating their history and reciting the songs on them".

"Siruvayal Zamindar too narrated many historic events. 'This building where I reside now, was Maruthu Pandiars' palace. Hence, this town came to be known as Palace Siruvayal.

Among the kings of Sivagangai very few were as famous as they were. By his sheer heroism, Marudhu Pandiar became the Head of the Samasthaanam. He was a very devoted person. In many pilgrim centres, he performed temple works. Particularly, in Kundrakkudi, he constructed some 'mandapams'. The temple tank that he renovated is known, even today as 'Marudhapuri'. In his Court, there were 21 Tamil Pandits. They have composed many poems on him'. As the Zamindar was captivated by Maruthu Pandiar's education, philanthropy and heroism, he spoke for hours together on Maruthu Pandiars' glory".

There are many historic treasures that speak the glory of Maruthu Pandiar even today in 'Thenpandi' region. A few that can be cited: the mandapams constructed in the Kundrakkudi temple; the renovated tank; the Someswaraswamy temple constructed by his soldiers at Kalaiyarkovil; Maruthu Pandiars' Samadhi there; the nearby Oorani believed to have been constructed by their mother; the dilapidated Sankarapathi kottai in the Sankarapathi forest between Karaikudi and Devakottai and the secret underground passage in that fort. The Indian Government should foster these and other places connected with Maruthu Pandiar as great historic monuments. Artists of Tamil Nadu who were overwhelmed by the sacrifices made by the Maruthu Brothers have erected statues at Kundrakkudi and Kalaiyarkovil in a big way, what to speak of their feelings in providing a place to these statues in the temples constructed by our forbears, equating them with the Gods. Nothing surprising. True patriotism and high devotion are not two different things. The people and the Government should realize this fact well. Besides, different useful memorials should be erected throughout the country in their name.

To implement this is not merely our duty. This is our Tamil culture - to consider martyrs for a cause as God. This culture decayed in the interregnum. Worship of heroism gave way to empty worship which flourished. This corrupted the goal of worship itself. The period when this situation changes will become an incomparable period of growth and prosperity thousand-fold in the country.

Tamil Nadu has the unique distinction of resisting the conceited British plunderers who had come to enslave India, Tamil Nadu, even at the initial stages, fought them uninterruptedly for 25 months and sacrificed countless brave warriors. Though the rest of India and its youth continued the war against the British, the credit goes to Tamil Kings for starting this struggle and leading it. The Tamil race was the first one in India to have started the Indian Freedom Struggle. It was the Tamil race which was the first to suffer in this war through imprisonment, banishment and martyrdom facing bullets, cannons and the gallows.

Maruthu Brothers protected the honour of our motherland; they made known to the rest of

the world the Tamils' ardent desire for freedom and their readiness to sacrifice. Veerapandian's battle (against the British) lasted a few weeks. The war waged by Maruthu Pandiars went on for several months. Veerapandian's battle was mostly confined to Panchalankurichi area. But that of Maruthu Pandiars extended to several towns, forts, forests and crossed boundaries too. The war started by Veerapandian was carried on by Maruthu Brothers for nearly five months with the help of Veerapandian's brother Oomaithurai. The heroism they showed and the sacrifice they made during the wars was of no small measure. Countless soldiers died and they wept over them. They had unshakeable faith they would defeat the aliens and peace would return. Through victory, they did not get peace; through heroic death only they could get it.

Maruthu Brothers made scholars in history say that there was no instance in world history at any point of time where a group, depending on physical strength alone, fought so fiercely and skillfully another group that was armed to the teeth. They did not succeed; but they attained immortal glory.

Bharathiar composed 9 songs, blessing the fallen Belgium. But each word in those songs appears to have been chosen keeping in mind the war waged by the Maruthu Pandiars and the end of that war.

It is wrong to consider Maruthu Pandiars as only freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu. It will be appropriate to rank them along with world leaders who waged wars against slavery like Mazzini, Garibaldi, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

It took nearly 150 years for Mother Earth to bring forth a Mahatma to show to the world that love alone can defeat the Might of Arms with which the British crushed the freedom struggles waged by those like Maruthu Brothers. We are fortunate in enjoying the freedom which Maruthu Pandiar and our forefathers did not see. But we should be thankful to them for getting this freedom. If the future of India should turn into a golden era, we need countless heroes – Maruthu Pandiars; not to wage wars but to protect our freedom.

Let us pay respects to those heroes who fought for our sake and for the protection of our motherland. Let us imbue ourselves with their history. Let us bring their lives in our mind's eye for they lived and fought for honour and did not care to cast away their lives for the sake of honour. Let us dedicate ourselves to create a new Tamizhagam, a new India and a new world with unity.

Vaazhga Maruthu Pandiar's glory!

Courtesy: *'Maanangkaatha Maruthu Pandiargal'.*

New machinery for modernising co-operative spinning mills

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 20.09.2016 *(English Translation)*

Besides being a forerunner to industrial growth, the weaving industry is the second largest employment provider to rural people, after agriculture. My Government has given priority for the growth of such an essential industry, and has taken several measures.

I have ordered the implementation of the following schemes through the Department of Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi:

1.The six Co-operative spinning mills in Tamil Nadu have been modernized at a cost of Rs.175.23 crore. These mills produce yarn needed for the implementation of the schemes for distribution of school uniform to students and dhoti and saree at no cost. I have ordered the installation of needed new modern machinery – Two-for-one Twister, Doubling Machines, Comber machines and Open-end spinning machines - in these mills for production of quality yarn for supply to Weavers Co-operative Societies. This will cost Rs.14.20 crore.

2.There are 1,357 handloom and powerloom weavers Co-operative societies in Tamil Nadu. The labour strength in them is 1,500. A welfare insurance scheme is implemented for the benefit of employees in co-operative institutions functioning under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. I have ordered the implementation of a similar welfare insurance scheme for the employees in

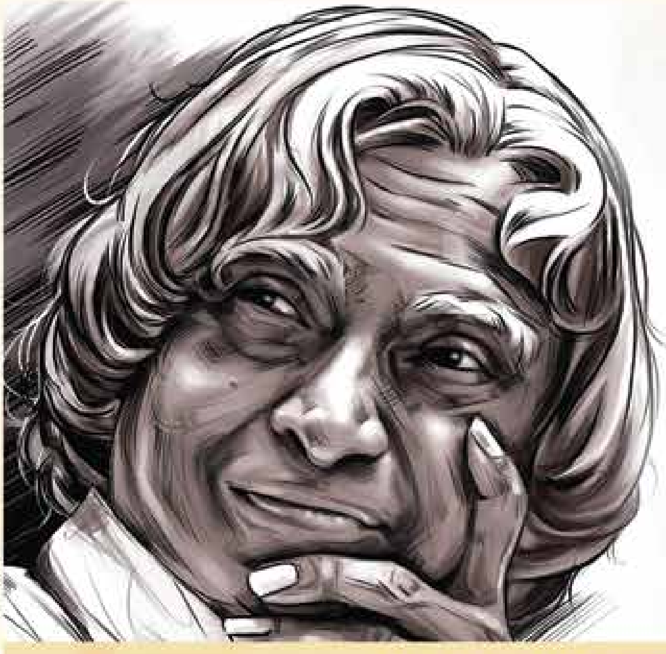
the weavers' Co-operative societies also from the current year. The employees will enjoy a 50 per cent subsidy in the annual insurance premium amount. The subsidy will be borne by the weavers co-operative societies.

3.The Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, known as 'Poompuhar', is creating marketing opportunities for the handicrafts produced by Tamil Nadu artisans. To further streamline this work, I have ordered the implementation of a new integrated development and promotion of handicrafts scheme through this Corporation. Under this scheme, several programmes will be executed, like design development, integrated training, setting up common facility centres for artisans and exporters, organizing exhibition and handicraft markets, distribution of accessory kits worth Rs.5,000/- each to 10,000 handicraft artisans and organizing consumer/manufacturers meetings. The Central Government assistance to this scheme is Rs.17.14 crore; the State Government will give a parallel grant of Rs.3.24 crore to the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation.

4.As a monsoon season relief, Rs.4,000/- is given to each family of earthenware workers from 2014-2015 for removing the hardships they face during the rainy days. In our election manifesto, we had promised that steps would be taken to distribute Sheila power driven Potter's wheel for manufacture of earthenware. Accordingly, I have ordered the distribution of this power driven wheel, worth about Rs.4 crore to 2,000 earthenware workers at no cost so as to reduce their workload and improve their production skills.

5.We had also promised in our election manifesto that subsidy would be provided for setting up industrial sheds for the manufacture of earthenware. I have issued orders to take up this year, repair works in damaged work sheds of Earthenware Industrial Co-operative Societies, functioning under the Khadi and Village Industries Board as also erect new sheds at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

These measures will improve the lives of weavers, handicraft artisans and earthenware workers.



'Syndrome of a hundred heroes and 950 million zeros must change'

APJ Abdul Kalam with Arun Tiwari

(From WINGS OF FIRE, An autobiography)

I started my work at NASA at the Langley Research Centre (LRC) in Hampton, Virginia. This is primarily an R&D centre for advanced aerospace technology. One of my most vivid memories of LRC is of a piece of sculpture depicting a charioteer driving two horses, one representing scientific research and the other technological development, metaphorically encapsulating the interconnection between research and development.

From LRC I went to the Goddard Space Flight Centre (GSFC) at Greenbelt, Maryland. This Centre develops and manages most of NASA's earth-orbiting science and applications satellites. It operates NASA's tracking networks for all space missions. Towards the end of my visit, I went to the Wallops Flight Facility at Wallops Island in East Coast, Virginia. This place was the base for NASA's sounding rocket programme. Here, I saw a painting prominently displayed in the reception lobby. It depicted a battle scene with a few rockets flying in the background. A painting with this theme should be the most commonplace thing at a Flight Facility, but the painting caught my eye because the soldiers on the side launching the rockets were not white, but dark-skinned, with the racial features of people found in South Asia. One day, my curiosity got the better of me, drawing me towards the painting. It turned out to be Tipu Sultan's army fighting the British. The painting depicted a fact forgotten in Tipu's own country but commemorated here on the other side of the planet. I was happy to see an Indian glorified by NASA as a hero of warfare rocketry.

My impression of the American people can be summarized by a quotation from Benjamin

Franklin, "Those things that hurt instruct!" I realised that people in this part of the world meet their problems head on. They attempt to get out of them rather than suffer them.

My mother had once narrated an incident from the Holy Book— after God created man, he asked the angels to prostrate themselves before Adam. Everybody prostrated themselves except Iblis, or Satan, who refused. "Why did you not prostrate yourself?" Allah asked. "You created me of fire and him of clay. Does not that make me nobler than Adam?" Satan contended. God said, "Be gone from paradise! This is no place for your contemptuous pride". Satan obeyed, but not before cursing Adam with the same fate. Soon Adam followed suit by becoming a transgressor after eating the forbidden fruit. Allah said, "Go hence and may your descendants live a life of doubt and mistrust".

What makes life in Indian organizations difficult is the widespread prevalence of this very contemptuous pride. It stops us from listening to our juniors, subordinates and people down the line. You cannot expect a person to deliver results if you humiliate him, nor can you expect him to be creative if you abuse him or despise him. The line between firmness and harshness, between strong leadership and bullying, between discipline and vindictiveness is very fine, but it has to be drawn. Unfortunately, the only line prominently drawn in our country today is between the 'heroes' and the 'zeros'. On one side are a few hundred 'heroes' keeping nine hundred and fifty million people down on the other side. This situation has to be changed.

As the process of confronting and solving problems often requires hard work and is painful, we have endless procrastination. Actually, problems can be the cutting edge that actually distinguish between success and failure. They draw out innate courage and wisdom.

As soon as I returned from NASA, India's first rocket launch took place on 21 November 1963. It was a sounding rocket, called Nike-Apache, made at NASA. The rocket was assembled in the church building I have referred to earlier. The only equipment available to transport the rocket was a truck and a manually

operated hydraulic crane. The assembled rocket was to be shifted from the church building to the launch pad by truck. When the rocket was lifted by the crane and was about to be placed on the launcher, it started tilting, indicating a leak in the hydraulic system of the crane. As we were fast approaching the launch time, 6 p.m., any repairs to the crane had to be ruled out. Fortunately, the leak was not large and we managed to lift the rocket manually, using our collective muscle power and finally placing it on the launcher.

In the maiden Nike-Apache launch, I was in charge of rocket integration and safety. Two of my colleagues who played a very active and crucial role in this launch were D. Easwardas and R. Aravamudan. Easwardas undertook the rocket assembly and arranged the launch. Aravamudan,whom we called Dan, was in charge of radar, telemetry and ground support. The launch was smooth and problem-free. We obtained excellent flight data and returned with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

When we were relaxing the next evening at the dinner table, we received news of the assassination of President John F Kennedy in Dallas, Texas. We were appalled. The Kennedy years were a significant era in America, when young men were at the helm of affairs. I used to read with interest about Kennedy's moves in the missile crisis of late 1962. The Soviet Union built missile sites in Cuba, from which it would have been possible to launch attacks on American cities. Kennedy imposed a blockade or 'quarantine', barring the introduction of any offensive missiles to Cuba. America also threatened to respond to any Soviet nuclear attack from Cuba on any country in the Western Hemisphere by retaliating against the USSR. After fourteen days of intense drama, the crisis was resolved by the Soviet Premier Khrushchev ordering that the Cuban bases be dismantled and the missiles returned to Russia.

The next day, Prof. Sarabhai had a detailed discussion with us on future plans. He was creating a new frontier in the field of science and technology in India. A new generation,

scientists and engineers in their 30s and early 40s, was being charged with an unprecedented dynamism. Our biggest qualifications at INCOSPAR were not our degrees and training, but Prof. Sarabhai's faith in our capabilities. After the successful launch of Nike-Apache, he chose to share with us his dream of an Indian Satellite Launch Vehicle.

Prof. Sarabhai's optimism was highly contagious. The very news of his coming to Thumba would electrify people and all laboratories, workshops and design offices would hum with unceasing activity. People would work virtually round-the-clock because of their enthusiasm to show Prof. Sarabhai something new, something that had not been done before in our country—be it a new design or a new method of fabrication or even an out-of-the-way administrative procedure. Prof. Sarabhai would often assign multiple tasks to a single person or a group. Though some of those tasks would appear totally unrelated in the beginning, they would, at a later stage, emerge as deeply interconnected. When Prof. Sarabhai was talking to us about the Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV), he asked me, almost in the same breath, to take up studies on a rocket-assisted take-off system (RATO) for military aircraft. The two things had no apparent connection except in the mind of this great visionary. I knew that all I had to do was to remain alert and focussed on my purpose, and sooner or later, an opportunity to do a challenging job would enter my laboratory.

Prof. Sarabhai was ever-willing to try out novel approaches and liked to draw in young people. He had the wisdom and judgement which enabled him to realise not only if something was well done, but also when it was time to stop. In my opinion, he was an ideal experimenter and innovator. When there were alternative courses of action before us, whose outcome was difficult to predict, or to reconcile varying perspectives, Prof. Sarabhai would resort to experimentation to resolve the issue. This was precisely the situation at INCOSPAR

in 1963. A bunch of young, inexperienced, but nevertheless energetic and enthusiastic persons were given the task of fleshing out the spirit of self reliance in the field of science and technology in general, and of space research in particular. It was a great example of leadership by trust.

The rocket launch site later blossomed into the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launch Station (TERLS). TERLS was established through active collaboration with France, USA and USSR. The leader of the Indian space programme— Prof. Vikram Sarabhai—had comprehended the full implications of the challenge and had not balked at taking it on. Right from the day INCOSPAR was formed, he was aware of the need to organize an integrated national space programme, with the equipment for the manufacture of rockets and launch facilities developed and produced indigenously.

With this in view, a wide-ranging programme for scientific and technological development in rocket fuels, propulsion systems, aeronautics, aerospace materials, advanced fabrication techniques, rocket motor instrumentation, control and guidance systems, telemetry, tracking systems and scientific instruments for experimentation in space were launched at the Space Science and Technology Centre and the Physical Research Laboratory at Ahmedabad. Incidentally, this laboratory has produced a large number of Indian space scientists of extremely high calibre over the years.

The real journey of the Indian aerospace programme, however, had begun with the Rohini Sounding Rocket (RSR) Programme. What is it that distinguishes a sounding rocket from a Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) and from a missile? In fact, they are three different kinds of rockets. Sounding rockets are normally used for probing the near-earth environment, including the upper regions of the atmosphere. While they can carry a variety of scientific payloads to a range of altitudes, they cannot impart the final velocity needed to orbit the payload. On the other hand, a launch vehicle is designed to inject into orbit a technological payload or satellite. The final stage of a launch vehicle provides the necessary velocity for a satellite to enter an orbit. This is a complex operation requiring onboard guidance and control systems. A missile, though belonging to the same family, is a still more complex system. In addition to the large terminal velocity and onboard guidance and control, it must have the capability to home onto targets. When the targets are fast-moving and capable of manoeuvring, a missile is also required to carry out target-tracking functions.

The RSR programme was responsible for the development and fabrication of sounding rockets and their associated on-board systems for scientific investigations in India. Under this programme, a family of operational sounding rockets were developed. These rockets had wide ranging capabilities, and to date several hundreds of these rockets have been launched for various scientific and technological studies.

I still remember that the first Rohini rocket consisted of a single solid propulsion motor weighing a mere 32 kg. It lifted a nominal 7 kg payload to an altitude of about 10 km. It was soon followed by another, to which one more solid propellant stage was added to dispatch multi-experiment payloads weighing nearly 100 kg to an altitude of over 350 km.

The development of these rockets had resulted in a fully indigenous capability in the production of sounding rockets as well as their propellants. This programme had brought into the country technology for the production of very high performance solid propellants, like those based on polyurethane and polybutane polymer. It later resulted in the setting up of a Propellant Fuel Complex (PFC) to manufacture strategic chemicals required for rocket engines, and a Rocket Propellant Plant (RPP) to produce propellants.

The development of Indian rockets in the twentieth century can be seen as a revival of the eighteenth century dream of Tipu Sultan. When Tipu Sultan was killed, the British captured more than 700 rockets and subsystems of 900 rockets in the battle of Turukhanahally in 1799. His army had 27 brigades, called Kushoons, and each brigade had a company of rocket men, called Jourks. These rockets had been taken to England by William Congreve and were subjected by the British to what we call ‘reverse engineering’ today. There were, of course, no GATT, IPR Act, or patent regime.

With the death of Tipu, Indian rocketry also met its demise—at least for 150 years.

Meanwhile, rocket technology made great strides abroad. Konstantin Tsiolkovsky in Russia (1903), Robert Goddard in USA (1914) and Hermann Oberth in Germany (1923) gave rocketry new dimensions. In Nazi Germany, Wernher von Braun's group produced V-2 short range ballistic missiles and showered fire on the Allied Forces. After the war, both the USA and the USSR captured their share of German rocket technology and rocket engineers. With this booty, they started to run their deadly arms race with missiles and warheads.

Rocketry was reborn in India thanks to the technological vision of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Prof. Sarabhai took the challenge of giving physical dimensions to this dream. Very many individuals with myopic vision questioned the relevance of space activities in a newly independent nation which was finding it difficult to feed its population. But neither Prime Minister Nehru nor Prof. Sarabhai had any ambiguity of purpose. Their vision was very clear: if Indians were to play a meaningful role in the comity of nations, they must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to their real-life problems. They had no intention of using it merely as a means to display our might.

NEWS IN PICTURES

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Noon Meal Programme Dr.V.Saroja, Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Sports and Youth Welfare Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Tamil Development and Information Department Secretary Thiru. R.Venkatesan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations Thiru. J.Kumaragurubaran I.A.S.offered floral tributes on 29.09.2016 to the decorated portrait of former Mayor Sivaraj placed near his statue at Mint Street in Chennai in connection with his 125th birth anniversary.

Measures against spread of dengue

On the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a review meeting was held on 21.09.2016 at the Government Multi-Super Speciality Hospital at the Omandurar Government Estate, Chennai on the steps to be taken to prevent dengue and other infectious diseases. Hon'ble Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare Dr. C. Vijayabaskar, presided over the meeting in which private organizations, NGOs, representatives of the Indian Medical Association, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, private hotel owners, private hospitals, hostels, school and college associations, private doctors, representatives of nurses associations and federation of Indian industries and pharmacy owners participated.

✶ All fevers are not dengue fever. Dengue fever is a type of virus fever. It spreads through the day time bite of the aedes mosquito which breeds in clean water.

✶ Already awareness has been created among people against allowing water to stagnate in places surrounding their houses, and in flower pots, ornamental jars, small vessels, tin boxes, waste tyres, coconut shells and in articles like manual grinders. They have

also been told to keep water collection cisterns closed with a lid.

- ✶ In buildings under construction, workers should bale out water that stagnates in pits dug up for erecting lifts and in water tanks. They should clean them and keep a watch that water does not stagnate.
- ✶ Likewise, water tanks in marriage halls, hotels, commercial complexes and cinema theatres should be cleaned well with bleaching powder once a week and closed tightly so that mosquitoes don't enter them. Unwanted articles that may contribute to the generation of aedes mosquito should be removed.
- ✶ There is high possibility of breeding of aedes mosquito even in the little quantity of water that collects in the discarded coffee and tea paper cups. Hence, steps should be taken to prevent mosquitoes breeding in such cups.
- ✶ Special training is constantly given to field workers, para-medical workers and private medical practitioners in all Districts.
- ✶ Professors of the Department of medicine in Madras Medical College provide training about dengue fever to doctors in the private sector. In this training, detailed discussions take place about the modern treatments, complications and challenges that arise in curing dengue fever, treatment of critical patients, the experience one gains in treating dengue fever and about the treatment protocol.
- ✶ Doctors under the Indian Medical Council should report to the nearby Taluk Primary Health Centre doctor about patients with dengue fever and to the town welfare officer. They should also inform the round-the- clock functioning -104 – Information Assistance Centre or the control room (phone no. 044 – 24350496/044 – 24334811/ 9444340496/93614 82899).
- ✶ The participants in the meeting were exhorted to stress to their constituent units the need for destroying and eradicating the aedes mosquito.

Through such multi – dimensional activities, the spread of dengue and other infectious diseases in Tamil Nadu is under total control. It was also stressed that dengue fever eradication activities must be turned into a people's movement. To prevent the outbreak of dengue fever, the Government is seriously engaged in all preventive measures.

The Hon'ble Minister for Health urged private organizations,NGOs and the general public to extend total co-operation in making Tamil Nadu a 100 per cent disease-free State.

Tamilarasu

R.N.I. No. 21445/70 Regn. No. TN/CCN/642/15-17

Date of Publication : 2nd week of every month

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa, on behalf of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Best Charitable Trust and Namadhu M.G.R. Best Charitable Trust, presented to Health and Family Welfare Department Principal Secretary Thiru. J. Radhakrishnan I.A.S, at the Secretariat on 21.09.2016, 10 sets of M.B.B.S. medical books for Government Medical College libraries, for the use of medical college students.

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